RB, Sirok oppose bill that will separate CUC's power, water systems. PAGE 2
Marianas can expect drier weather this Thanksgiving weekend. PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

Happy Thanksgiving

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'We are not going anywhere'

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios greets Dr. Tan Siu Lin during the one-year anniversary celebration yesterday of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Tan family, one of the CNMI's largest stakeholders, along with its hotel management partner, Intercontinental Hotel Group, celebrated the one-year anniversary of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan yesterday afternoon.

See WE on Page 4

New CPA executive director debuts

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Leo B. Tudela made his first appearance as the Commonwealth Ports

See CPA on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Leo B. Tudela made his debut as the Commonwealth Ports Authority's new executive director during a regular board meeting last Tuesday.

Villagomez: CNMI is lucky, but opioid problem will eventually get here

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Villagomez

The CNMI is lucky, but it is not special and the nationwide opioid problem will eventually get here, according to Joseph Kevin Villagomez, who is the administrator of the Addiction Services Unit at the Community Guidance Center of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Appearing before the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee meeting on Monday that tackled two bills on opioids, Villagomez noted that one of the key

See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4

NMTech students donate Thanksgiving meals to Karidat

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff and several culinary arts, baking, and pastry students pose with Karidat Social Services staff after the former donated Thanksgiving meals to Guma Esperanza last Tuesday at the NMTech kitchen in Lower Base.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Culinary Arts students of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, as well as students under its Baking and Pastry programs, prepared and donated traditional Thanksgiving meals to clients of Karidat Social Services' Guma Esperanza last Tuesday at the NMTech kitchen in Lower Base.

The meals included several pumpkin pies, as well

See NMTECH on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

For a low as $140, CNMI and Guam residents can enjoy a night in an Ocean View Room at Hyatt Regency Saipan with complimentary breakfast buffet at Kili Café & Terrace.

PAGE 11

WORLD

Qatar on Wednesday announced a truce-for-hostages deal between Israel and Hamas that would bring a four-day halt in fighting.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE

Thanksgiving may be a time for Americans to come together, but opinion is divided over what's on the crowded dinner table.

PAGE 14

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Local

RB, Sirok oppose bill that will separate CUC's power, water systems

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Noting that creating an agency or department is very costly, Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho last Tuesday expressed opposition to a Senate bill that seeks to replace the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with two independent autonomous public corporations to separately manage and control the power service and water service systems, and create one elected consolidated board for the two public corporations.

CNMI Public Utilities Commission board chair James S. Sirok, on the other hand, said although CPUC does not have a position yet regarding the legislation, just as a general statement they are not in favor of the bill at present time because they feel that it would cause more costs and which would then be passed on to the ratepayers.

Camacho and Sirok expressed their respective positions to Senate Bill 23-29 during the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committee chaired by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who is also the author of the legislation.

Camacho said the CNMI is still on the economic recovery or financial constraint.

Camacho said to his knowledge, CUC's Water Division has been subsidized by CUC's Power Division.

"Of course, it's going to impact its residents here because they need the funding to run their division or department," said the mayor, adding that right now he believes that this bill is not that feasible.

The mayor said with this bill, two managers are created—one manages the power division and the other manages the water division.

"So, for this time it is not feasible. People are suffering. As you'll see that there's a lot of proposed taxes out there in the community," he pointed out.

Sirok said for CPUC, they don't have any formal position about the bill as they will have to wait and see until they are able to hire some consultants to look into this legislation and give them an opinion.

"But right now, there's nothing in front of the commission, other than the bill itself to ask comments on," he said.

In supplementing his prior statements, Sirok said as a private citizen, having experience within the utility sector, especially with CUC, he is familiar with various rate issues that CUC has.

He said one of those is the fact that the water rates itself and the fact that the power division of CUC at the present time really subsidizes the water expenses and has been doing that for a long time.

Sirok said there hasn't been a rate modification of CUC's water rates for more than 10 years.

He said there was a petition that was submitted to the CPUC in 2013 that would have increased the water rates but that was withdrawn.

Sirok said that petition has never been presented to CPUC since that time.

"Now, if we go through your bill, and this is just a thought off the top of my head when I first saw this, is that if you separate the power division and the water division, now you have to have the water division, standing on its own," Sirok told Manglona.

He said this means that if the water division is not recovering revenue now to cover its actual cost, when it is separated, the water rates are going to go up obviously.

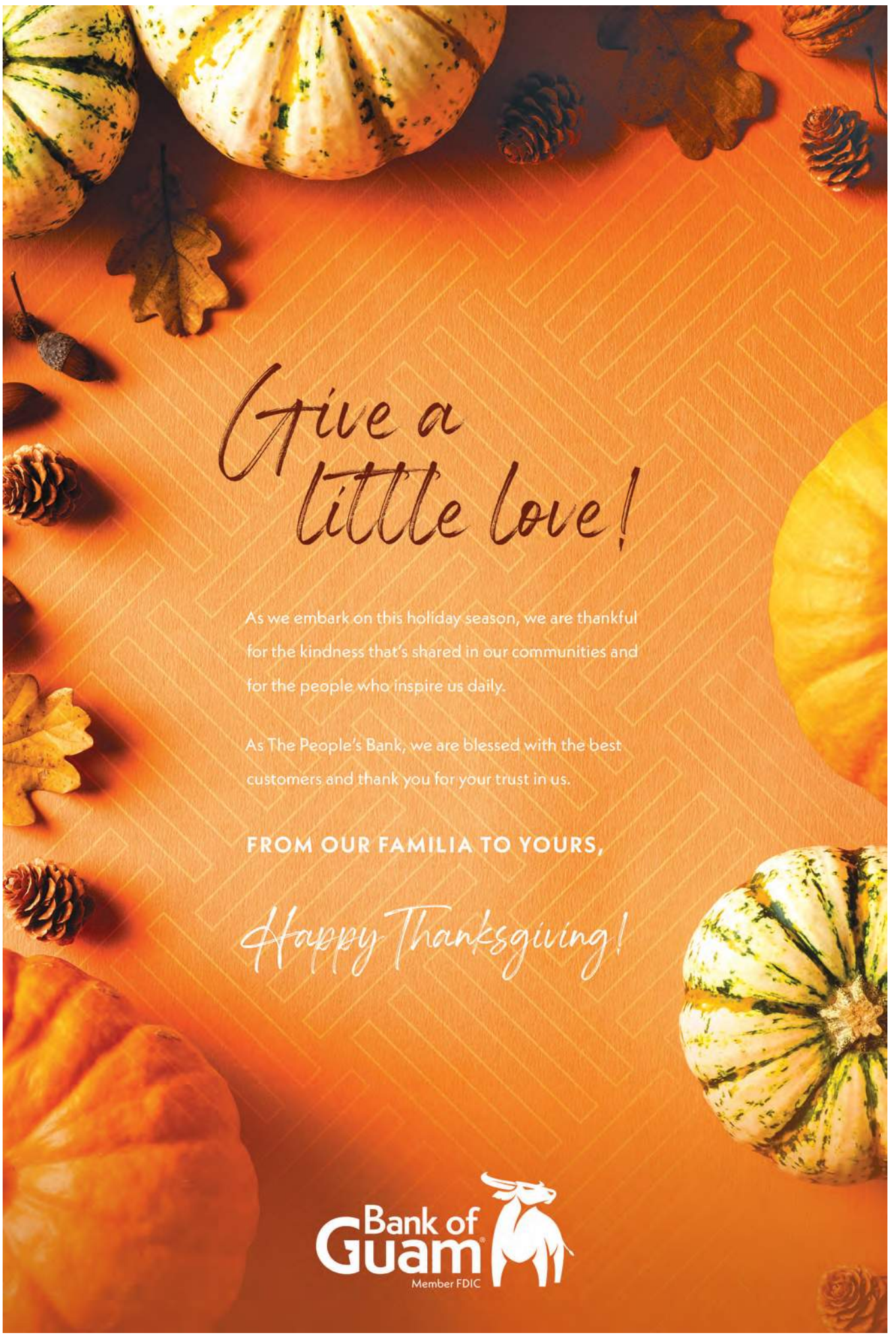
Sirok also noted that that there's a bill in front of the Senate for consideration that would remove the government rate for all utilities for all government agencies and so there would only be a residential rate and a commercial rate.

He said there's not much difference between the power rate on the commercial versus the government side, but on the water rate, there's a large difference.

As to the aspect of the bill requiring the election of the board of directors, Sirok said utilities is a little different than operating a general company.

"I mean, it's a little more technical in nature. But I have no opposition. We haven't discussed this within the Commission as to whether or not we favor elected positions. I don't see any opposition," he said.

Sirok said, however, he believes that there should be some minimal type of utility experience needed for members to sit on that, either utilities on the power side or water side because there's a little bit of some technical knowledge that needs to be acquired or known by individuals that are making management decisions within those fields.


Give a little love!
As we embark on this holiday season, we are thankful for the kindness that's shared in our communities and for the people who inspire us daily.
As The People's Bank, we are blessed with the best customers and thank you for your trust in us.
FROM OUR FAMILIA TO YOURS,
Happy Thanksgiving!
Bank of Guam
Member FDIC

Kilili says $213.4M for Marianas, more federally funded projects are coming

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has brought $213.4 million to the Marianas, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend.

Sablan said the White House announced the funding this week to mark the two-year anniversary of the law.

To date, the Biden-Harris administration has announced nearly $400 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, including over 40,000 specific projects and awards, across over 4,500 communities in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the territories, and for Tribes.

This once-in-a-generation investment is rebuilding roads and water systems, expanding high-speed internet access, and adding more clean energy projects throughout the islands, Sablan said.

"More projects in the Marianas are expected to be funded in the coming months to improve the life for us all," the delegate said.

The $213.4M projects include the following:

- $12 million for Mount Tapochao Road;
- $9.3 million in other highway funding;
- $13.9 million for Marianas airports;
- $3.1 million for the Saipan Harbor;
- $3 million to improve public transportation;
- $62 million for sewer and drinking water infrastructure;
- $80.8 million to build high-speed internet and offset internet bills for 4,000 Marianas households;
- $21.8 million to harden infrastructure against the impacts of climate change;
- $2.5 million to the State Energy Program;
- $1.5 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
- $915,000 for home weatherization;
- $2.4 million to strengthen the power grid and prevent outages.

NWS forecasts drier weather for NMI this Thanksgiving weekend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service, in its weekly regional forecast, shared that the Marianas can expect a dry Thanksgiving weekend in terms of weather conditions.

According to NWS, based on its regional overview of the Marianas, fair weather is in store for much of the week for Guam and the CNMI.

However, a weak surface trough will bring some showers to the Marianas up to today.

"[Expect] drier weather through the Thanksgiving holiday. Expect trades, seas and surf to build slightly into the weekend," said the forecast.

As for Palau and Yap, NWS said a ridge of high pressure with its associated light winds and fair weather will shift westward.

"A weak surface trough will bring increased showers on Wednesday. Afterward, drier trades will dominate regional weather into the weekend. Farther east, trade-wind convergence is producing a broad band of showers across Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states. Drier and moderate to fresh trades, about 15-20 kt, are found to the northeast and over the Marshall Islands. Stronger trades are found between Kwajalein and Wake Island, and eastward to the Date Line," said NWS.

"With the exception of showers currently over the FSM, generally fair weather is expected for the week ahead. A weak [system] may try to set up late in the week, which could bring a few more showers to the region. Trade wind swell and wind waves of 4 to 6 feet will build to between 5 and 8 feet across the region by mid to late-week. Islands farther north could see combined seas near nine feet," NWS added.

Others involved in scheme to enter Guam by boat plead guilty

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Last week, Xu Donglin, one of 13 others involved in a scheme to illegally enter Guam by boat from the Smiling Cove Marina, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Another individual involved in the scheme to illegally enter Guam by boat has pleaded guilty before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Last week, Xu Donglin, one of 13 others involved in a scheme to illegally enter Guam by boat, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens.

Xu appeared before District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy.

After hearing Xu's change of plea, Kennedy stated that she will recommend the acceptance of his guilty plea to District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Previously, Xu and his co-defendant, Li Qingjiang, were set to go to trial.

Both have since pleaded guilty.

Meanwhile, Xu and Li's 12 other co-defendants have been sentenced to time served by Senior Judge Alex R. Munson following their respective change of plea hearings.

The 12 other defendants are Miao Fuquan, Qin Chen, Din Hongmei, Li Qinjiang, Xu Ziyou, Shanguan Huipin, Gao Xiping, Wang Rui, Lin Yuxing, Lu Xu, Zhang Xiangke, and Wang Bin.

On Sept. 13, 2023, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations arrested the 14 Chinese nationals after they paid an undercover agent, who was posing as a boat captain, to transport them to Guam illegally.

It was Xu who told the undercover agent that he was looking for a boat captain on Saipan willing to be paid to take approximately nine people to Guam.

According to Special Agent Meilani L. Quintanilla's complaint and affidavit filed in federal court, 11 of the 14 entered the CNMI at various times and all have overstayed their legal status.

Happy Thanksgiving
"May we give thanks to our Lord for the blessings bestowed upon us and our loved ones, show kindness and goodwill to our neighbors, and give compassion and aid to those in need. Let all of our hearts be full of gratitude and peace this Thanksgiving and throughout our daily lives."
Hon. Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho
Mayor of Saipan

Rental company seeks writ of execution vs. Forson Holdings' property

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Commercial space rental company Unicorn Corp. has sought a writ of execution against Forson Holding LLC to satisfy an over-$1-million court judgment.

Unicorn Corp., through Charity Hodson, has filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI to ask the court to grant a writ of execution against any bank accounts in the Commonwealth owned by Forson Holdings, or to order the sale of any real property Forson Holdings may have in the Commonwealth to satisfy a judgment previously granted by the court.

According to court documents, Unicorn Corp. sued Forson Holdings for non-payment of their lease and asked the court to issue an order evicting it from the plaintiff's property.

On May 20, 2021, the federal court issued an entry of default against Forson Holdings.

Forson Holdings asked the court to set aside the entry of default, but it was denied by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Aug. 24, 2021.

On Feb. 18, 2022, the court issued a $1,712,082 judgment in favor of Unicorn Corp.

However, according to Unicorn Corp, Forson Holdings has failed to pay any part of the judgment.

"Forson Holdings has not made any payment toward the judgment and has failed to remove its property to date," Unicorn Corp. said.

"Defendant has also failed to remove all its property from plaintiff's lot. Particularly, a pile driver, which remains on the property despite a stipulation of time in which plaintiff granted Forson Holdings additional time to remove all property and to auction the pile driver to apply the proceeds toward the judgment amount," the complaint added.

In addition, Hodson claims Unicorn Corp. also granted Forson Holdings an additional three months to remove the property in exchange for a rental fee of $1,500, or $500 per month.

"The defendant did prepay to store the equipment until Feb. 9, 2022," Unicorn Corp. said.

After, Unicorn Corp. granted an additional three months to remove the property in exchange for $1,500, which expired again in May 2022, which was never paid by the defendant.

WE

From page 1

For the first time in a long time, the Tan family was in full force yesterday for the celebration of the first-year anniversary of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, formerly known as Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

In attendance was the patriarch of the Tan family, Dr. Tan Siu Lin; his children: Willie, Raymond, and Jerry; and other members of the Tan clan who made the journey to Saipan from different parts of the world to celebrate the special occasion.

Aside from the Tan family, CNMI dignitaries like Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), members of the Legislature, and more were in also attendance, as well as private sector stakeholders and other members of the community.

Speaking in yesterday's celebration, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan expressed his and his family's love for the CNMI and why they continue to invest in the islands.

"As we are celebrating our first anniversary, I believe the future is bright. In the meantime, recovery takes time. We understand that, but we call the CNMI our home and we will continue to do our best to weather the current crisis. This beautiful transformation [of the Fiesta Resort to Crowne Plaza] really reconfirms our family's long-term commitment. We started in Guam but we later [came] to Saipan and we are not going anywhere. This is our home. We will continue to make this island our home," he said.

Tan pointed out that Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan celebrating another year is proof of the Tan family's and IHG's major commitment to tourism in the region.

"The partnership with IHG was really because we wanted to take Saipan to the next level. So, when we had the opportunity, the family made a decision to team up with IHG and do this major renovation to take this property to the next level. Not just our property, but we want our destination to be brought up to the next level. We aren't just competing with Guam now; we are also competing with other destinations. The only way we can remain competitive is to keep improving our product at the hotel level and our destination," he said.

Tan thanked the CNMI administration, private sector partners, and members of the CNMI community for their continued support.

"We love this community. It isn't just about business. We are committed to doing as much as we can to give back to the community as well," he said.

Also speaking at yesterday's celebration was Palacios, who not only congratulated TanHoldings and IHG for the first-year anniversary of Crowne Plaza, but also acknowledged the Tan family's dedication to the community through its generous contributions to culture, infrastructure, tourism, and more.

"Today we really celebrate what we believe to be an enduring relationship with TanHoldings group," he said.

TanHoldings is the parent company that owns the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan property; the hotel itself is being managed by IHG, which owns the Crowne Plaza brand.

NMTECH

From page 1

as turkeys and ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and vegetables.

Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, who was joined by her staff in receiving the meals on behalf of Guma Esperanza's clients, was thankful for the donation, noting that the shelter is currently full.

"We have plenty families up there now…" she said "So we appreciate that someone thinks about them and cares for them. …That makes it special."

Guma Esperanza is Karidat's shelter for women and children.

Ogumoro said that Thanksgiving is mostly about family, so the donation means a lot to their clients.

"Thanksgiving always revolves around family, and turkeys and giving thanks for what we have, so it really means a lot," she added. "Thanksgiving is always about getting together with family. That always stays the same. Whether It's in the [United] States or here, everybody appreciates family."

She extended her gratitude to the students and staff at NMTech. "…Your giving back to the family at Guma Esperanza is very important because they're away from their families, and they really appreciate that you care about them."

Besides giving back into the community, the project is also intended to show that the skills the students have learned at NMTech can be transferable to the job and workforce, said NMTech marketing and outreach coordinator Ben Babauta Jr.

He said this is NMTech's third year of partnership with Karidat, and it is a combined project of the Culinary Arts Level 1 and 2, as well as baking and pastry students.

"We used the skills that they learned here in Culinary Arts, and use that to give back to the community," said Babauta. "We are thankful that this is our third year that we are partnering with Guma Esperanza and we hope they enjoy the meal."

One of the students, Zyrhon Gapor, said he started exploring recipes and cooking from watching YouTube videos of his favorite chef, Gordon Ramsey.

Since then, Gapor has been learning to cook using different styles, and yesterday watched the potatoes and pies he helped prepare go to a good cause. He felt like it was a win-win, because he was also helped, too.

"This was my first time doing this, and it would be really great to continue this as a tradition," said Gapor.

CPA

From page 1

Authority's new executive director during last Tuesday's CPA board meeting, during which he was immediately tasked to address many of the long-standing problems the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport faces.

CPA chair Jose Ayuyu introduced Tudela at the meeting and said in a later interview with reporters he is excited to see what Tudela will do and what he will accomplish in his tenure as executive director.

Ayuyu acknowledged that there are high expectations for Tudela, and he wishes him all the luck as there are many challenges he will soon face. "The expectation is very high. I wish him luck because this isn't an easy position. …Maybe he will need some help, but it's very important that we support him. The board is here for him anytime," he said.

In Tudela's first board meeting, he was immediately thrown into the deep end of the pool and was tasked to fix many of the Saipan airport's problems "sooner rather than later." Some of those problems include infrastructure, repairs, improvements, and more.

"This is my first meeting with the board and I got to tell you, it was an exciting board meeting. We discussed [what] they want out of me here at CPA regarding our ports, our terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," he said.

When asked what his first course of action would be as CPA executive director, Tudela said he intends to thoroughly assess the problems at the CNMI ports and determine which should be addressed immediately.

"My goal is to assess the entire situation of our ports and see what the best steps we could take in regards to our infrastructure. I believe there are issues that should be resolved right away. [For example] the leakage at the airport, to me, is minor but very important for our tourists. Also, the plants, the grass, the pushcarts, they could be improved," he said.

As for his goals as the new executive director, Tudela said one of the things he hopes to accomplish is to get more grants to improve the CNMI ports, and to improve accessibility at the CNMI airports, especially for those with disabilities.

"One of the most critical things I want to address right now is revenue and expense. We cannot operate without revenue. Currently I'm looking at getting grants to improve our airports from solar grants, and more. Also, I want to better accommodate our traveling public that are persons with disabilities by improving accessibility. I was thinking maybe an escalator or installing more ramps at the terminals," he said.

He asks all CPA staff to cooperate with him and to respect one another as he transitions into his new role.

VILLAGOMEZ

From page 1

differences between methamphetamine or "ice" and opioids and a drug like fentanyl is that people can die immediately from opioids.

"Drug dealers are getting smarter and smarter. You've heard about the lava lamps with liquid methamphetamine," he said.

This was in reference to a case in September when the Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted eight lava lamps filled with liquid methamphetamine that were smuggled into the CNMI.

Villagomez later expressed strong support for House Bills 23-23 and 23-25, which are both authored by Rep. Malcolm Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan).

H.B. 23-23 seeks to establish a CNMI Drug Overdose Policy; to authorize and mandate first responders to possess opioid overdose reversal medication; to authorize standing orders for opioid overdose reversal medication; and to provide limited immunity for dispensing opioid overdose medication.

H.B. 23-25 proposes to amend provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act to protect and encourage opioid overdose reversal administration by granting limited immunity from civil liability.

Villagomez said people are aware that the No. 1 drug problem in the Commonwealth right now other than alcohol is methamphetamine.

"And we see the destruction that that is causing the community, from family breakup, burglaries and thefts, [to] all the other violent criminal events that come with it," he said.

H.R. 23-23, he said, will allow front-liners to administer an opioid reverse medication like Narcan.

He said this can be administered by front-liners like firefighters, police officers, and anybody in the emergency frontline.

Villagomez said the beauty of this bill is that it allows those at CHCC to train front-liners on how to administer the medication should the need arise.

He echoed what Dr. Lily Muldoon, CHCC medical director of Public Health, had stated before the committee, that if the medication is given to somebody that was not having an opioid crisis, it is not going to do any harm.

Villagomez noted that there is already an outpatient pharmacy and inpatient pharmacy with supply of Narcans here.

"We need to educate them and train them on what the signs and symptoms to look for," he said, referring to first responders.

He underscored the need for these two legislations so that those who are able to administer Narcan shouldn't be worried whether they're going to get sued if some adverse events happen.

Villagomez said the Good Samaritan Law, which already has been in place in most places, is one way of assisting the community to be comfortable enough to administer any lifesaving mechanism to help people that are in trouble.

Since 2020, there have been a total of 123 encounters of confirmed and suspected opioid misuse and a total of six overdoses involving opioids in the CNMI, according Eleanor Cabrera, who is the director of development at the executive office of CHCC, during the committee meeting.

Muldoon also stated in that meeting that the CNMI is expected to see an increase in opiate overdoses, just as it has been happening in the U.S. mainland and in Guam.

MCS Theatre Club continues magical Disney tradition

MCS

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club continues a magical tradition of telling Disney stories with its next production, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, at the school's historic stage. Featured here are the show's stars, Arturo Rodrigo Zandueta Travilla as Aladdin and Jessiana Borja Tenorio as Jasmine.

When Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its production of Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, it will continue a long tradition of bringing Disney magic to the stage and to the island. In its 27-year history, the club has told numerous stories from the Disney catalogue, including classics like *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *The Lion King Jr.*, and *Mulan Jr.* Continuing that tradition with yet another Disney show fittingly coincides with Disney's year-long 100-year anniversary this year.

"Ever since Walt and Roy Disney launched the Disney group of companies in 1923, storytelling has always been at the heart of everything Disney does, whether in animation, movies, Broadway musicals, or even their theme parks," said Theatre Club founder, show co-producer, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. He added, "So it only makes sense that a club like ours that loves to tell stories on stage and in film would return, time and time again, to Disney for material and inspiration."

When the show's director, junior and Theatre Club veteran Malina Rose B. Tenorio, was given the opportunity to direct, she did not hesitate in choosing another Disney story. However, her love for the story reflects yet another generation of Disney fans that have grown up, not with the animated classics but with their live action remakes. As she put it, "I actually fell in love with Aladdin when I saw the 2019 movie starring Will Smith." "In fact," she added, "I didn't watch the 1992 animated version until I started directing this show and wanted to learn more about its origins, which only made me love the story even more!"

For show co-producer, Theatre Club adviser and Alum-Knight, and school teacher, Zeno Deleon Guerrero Jr., telling another Disney story is familiar yet exciting. As a student member of the club, he was involved in several Disney shows. He said, "While it is slightly different as a teacher and adviser to put on a show like this, the magic is still there." He added, "It's especially inspiring to see a whole new generation of younger cast and crew members learn to understand and appreciate the art of telling Disney stories on stage."

Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman, Time Rice, and Chad Beguelin, and book by Chad Beguelin. Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliot & Terry Rossio and directed & produced by Ron Clements & John Musker. The Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's Aladdin Jr. will be presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* will be presented on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, at the school's historic stage with doors opening at 6:30pm each night. Tickets are $15 for limited premium seats, $10 for preferred seats, and $5 for general admission, and may be purchased at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi. ***(MCS)***

Power service interruption in Tanapag this Monday

CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption in Tanapag Village this coming Monday.

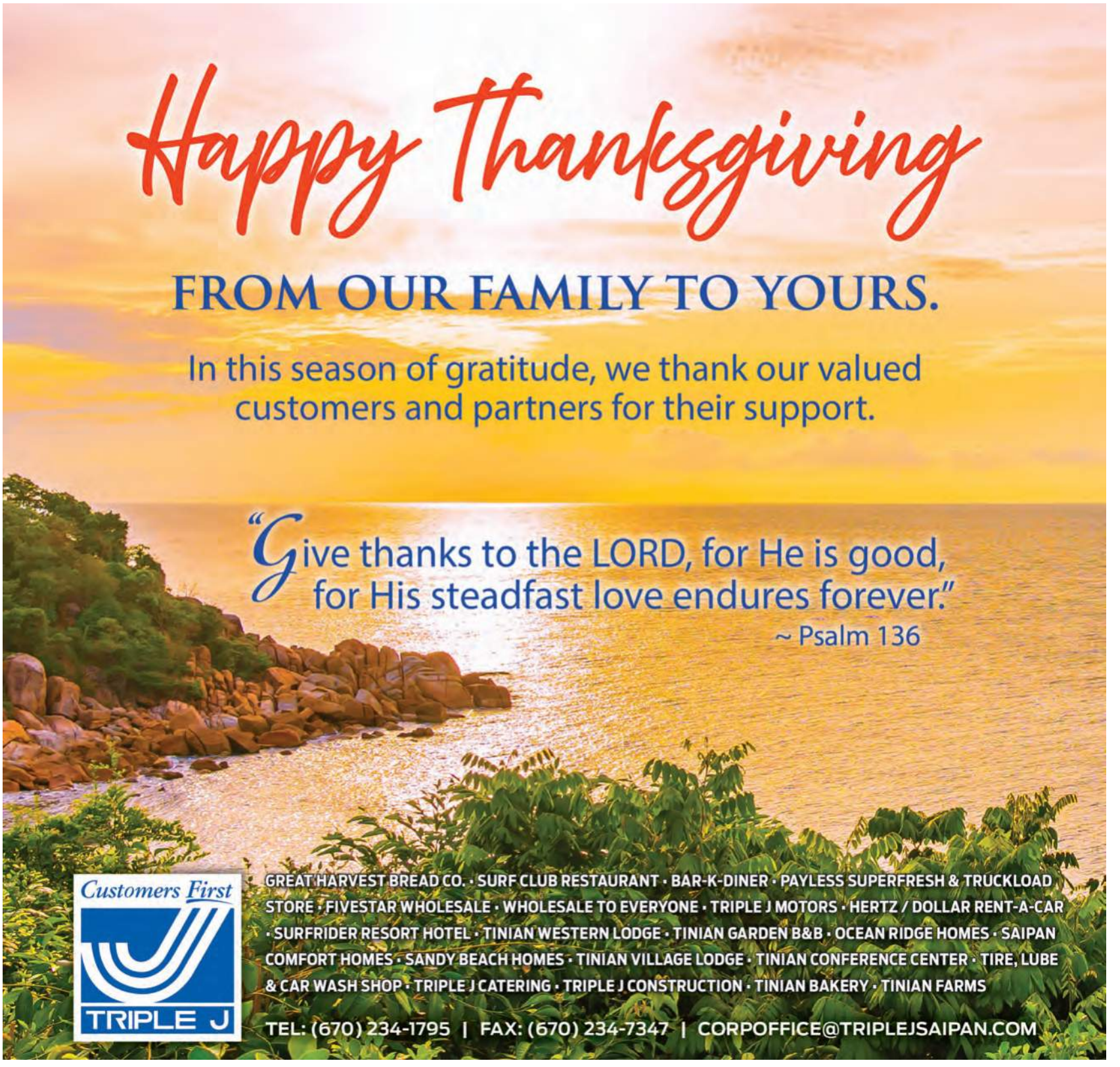
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, affecting customers in Tanapag.

The power service interruption will be from 9am to 1pm and the area affected is specifically residents and establishments along Tanapag's Santa Remedios Road.

No water wells and wastewater facility are affected and the purpose for the power service interruption is to allow CUC linemen 10 replace one wooden power pole with a concrete pole.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/. ***(CUC)***


Happy Thanksgiving
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS.
In this season of gratitude, we thank our valued customers and partners for their support.
"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."
~ Psalm 136
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mobil Oil Marianas donates $1,000 to this year's Toys for Tots campaign.

Mobil Oil Marianas donates to 2023 Toys for Tots campaign

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce thanks Chamber member Mobil Oil Marianas for its contribution of $1,000 to this year's Toys for Tots Campaign.

Toys for Tots, an initiative led by the U.S. Marine Corps, is dedicated to collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution to less fortunate children during the holiday season.

SCC, alongside the First Lady Wella Foundation, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, the CNMI Women's Affairs Office, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College are proud to engage in this meaningful campaign.

Mobil Oil Marianas, through their continued support now and in previous years, joins hands with other community partners to amplify the impact of the campaign, spreading joy and holiday cheer to children across the community. This year, the campaign encounters financial constraints that restrict its capacity to purchase extra toys, particularly in age and gender groups where there is the greatest need.

Acknowledging these challenges, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce sincerely thanks Mobil Marianas for their significant donation. Their commitment reflects the spirit of giving that defines the holiday season, ensuring that every child in our community can experience the magic of this special time.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continued collaboration with Mobil Marianas and other community partners as they work together to brighten the holiday season for children in need.

For more information or to donate, email saipantoys-4tots@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

The season's spirit reminds us of the importance
of gratitude and the joy of togetherness.
May your Thanksgiving be filled with both.
Happy
Thanksgiving
Hafa Adai!
From the Management & Staff of
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

NMPASI closed tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed tomorrow, Nov. 24, for professional development.

NMPASI's tegular office hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 27, starting 8am. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 23, 2023, **Ellis F. Barcinas,** an immediate family member **of Janel B. Crisostomo,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Crisostomo** is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fox No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 30, 2023.**

Dated this **9th** day of **November**, **2023.**

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400006

SUBMISSION DATE: December 11, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalarera) Improvement, Phase1A."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 09, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 28, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 07, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400010

SUBMISSION DATE: December 27, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Materials Recovery and Recycling Operations"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 23, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **December 13, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 21, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Happy
Thanksgiving
Day
Wishing you a holiday filled with love,
gratitude, peace, and prosperity.
Greetings From:
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 233

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

What did you learn about Israel that made you want to annihilate them?
I watch TikTok for my news and saw this letter to America from Osama bin Laden that said down with ISRAEL!
COLLEGE CAMPUS
MEDIA
STUDENTS for HAMAS
DOWN WITH ISRAEL!
DOWN WITH ISRAEL!
HAMAS forever!
SOCIAL MEDIA IS SPREADING POISON AMONG OUR YOUNGER GENERATION!
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EDITORIAL

Critical thinking is losing out to TikTok. A Thanksgiving intervention might help

We've seen contagions induced by social media before. But the sudden popularity of TikTok videos in which confused young people muse on the merits of Osama bin Laden's "Letter to America" reveal the depths of this particular app's ability to corrupt young minds.

Yes, that would be the deranged and paranoid thoughts of the terrorist mastermind of the murderous Sept. 11 attacks. On TikTok, you can find folks wondering aloud if he might just have had a point. The stupidity and ignorance of history boggles the mind.

Voices on the left, such as National Public Radio, have tried to argue that the TikTok problem is overblown and white supremacists are the real problem when it comes to rising antisemitism.

And, indeed, there is a growing amount of that poison on the far-right fringes.

But the left also has to recognize that antisemitism has re-emerged in troubling ways within its core communities, taking parents, ill-prepared college campuses and even some media organizations by surprise.

Denying it exists is not the solution. Rather, it's time for good people of all political stripes to admit that some Jewish young people are being very poorly protected, despite the colossal campus infrastructure created in recent years to attend to "inclusion" and students' mental and physical health.

To say those bureaucracies have been slow to react to what even nonpolitical Jewish students have been feeling as their sense of personal security has been upended, and the pressures they've faced on America's campuses in recent weeks, is to grossly understate.

No wonder many Jewish donors are incensed.

TikTok, in particular, has become such a cesspool of antisemitism that some Jewish parents have taken to social media themselves to say that the app is traumatizing their teenagers, thanks to the current force-fed diet of lightning videos twisting Michael Jackson's "They Don't Care About Us," offers of support for jihadism against the West, and even setting the thoughts of the Ayatollah Khamenei to sympathetic music.

"TikTok risks turning a whole generation into antisemites," wrote British columnist Jake Wallis Simons, adding that the app is "torturing" his Jewish daughter. "This is moral and intellectual vacuity," Simons wrote, "an internet brain-rot arising from a propaganda mechanism the like of which the world has never seen."

How much of what TikTok serves us has to do with Chinese interests and how much it follows from the dangers of its famously effective and amoral algorithm is a contested matter.

But this we know to be true.

When we see the scrawled word "Nazis" defacing the fence of former Mayor Rahm Emanuel's longtime summer home in Michigan, there is reason to worry. As our former colleague

See CRITICAL on Page 9

The trials and tribulations of an Israel-Hamas hostage deal

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Talking with your enemy during wartime is one of the most psychologically stressful things for a combatant to do. Haggling with the same people trying to kill you leaves a bad taste in the mouth. And yet, more times than not, talking and fighting at the same time is a necessity, both to explore possible avenues out of the war and to win back the release of hostages or soldiers in enemy hands.

Despite the rhetoric from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel also has a dialogue going with Hamas, the terrorist group that swept into southern Israel and committed the worst atrocity against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. While Israeli and Hamas officials aren't talking to each other directly, they are using intermediaries such as Qatar to deliver messages, exchange proposals and see whether a deal over hostages is possible.

While nobody knows how many hostages Hamas has in its custody, the number is thought to be around 240 people. Many of them are civilians of all ages, from babies to senior citizens. Where those hostages are being held is also a mystery, but the Israelis suspect a good portion are housed in the labyrinth underground tunnel system Hamas has constructed in the 17 years the group has ruled Gaza.

All of this presents a problem for the tens of thousands of Israeli troops combing northern Gaza: How can Israel square an intense military offensive in a densely populated area with the goal of bringing innocent civilians back to their families alive?

It took longer than some would have liked, but Netanyahu appears to have come around to the conclusion that getting the hostages out through diplomatic means is the best way to square the circle. Up until a week or so ago, Netanyahu was highly resistant to the notion of negotiating with Hamas. But Hamas was never going to release hostages for free; captured Israelis are highly valuable for a group that, in the past, has been able to trade them for Palestinian prisoners. The most infamous case study came in 2011, when Netanyahu approved the transfer of about 1,000 Palestinian prisoners to win the freedom of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Hamas five years earlier. One of those Palestinian prisoners was Yahya Sinwar. Hamas' top military official and the architect of the Oct. 7 assault on Israel.

Netanyahu didn't want to repeat the episode. According to The New York Times, there was a draft agreement on the table that would have transferred 50 hostages to Israel in return for a temporary pause in Israeli airstrikes. But for a variety of reasons, including doubt that Hamas' negotiators actually had the power to negotiate on anything, the deal died. Israel launched its ground invasion soon after.

The talks, however, didn't die. Over the following weeks, rumors of a possible hostage agreement between Israel and Hamas have percolated. The terms have largely been the same: Hamas hands over the civilian hostages (Israeli troops are also held) in phases in exchange for a multiday pause in Israel's military campaign and an increase in humanitarian aid into Gaza. U.S. officials are more optimistic about a hypothetical deal today than they have been in the past.

"Many areas of difference that previously existed have been narrowed," deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told CBS' "Face the Nation" program over the weekend. "We believe we are closer than we have been to reaching a final agreement."

The outstanding question hovering over all of this is whether the technicalities of any agreement can be resolved. Ushering dozens, if not hundreds, of civilian hostages through a war zone is no easy feat. Evacuation routes need to be established, and fighting would need to stop along those routes until the process is complete. Israel is reportedly insisting on aerial surveillance to ensure the hostages are going where they need to go; Hamas is balking at such a monitoring plan.

The length of any fighting pause is also up for dispute. Hamas would obviously like the pause to be as long as possible in order to recuperate some of the military capability it has lost. Israel wants the pause to be on the short end for precisely the same reason. Enforcing any short-term truce is also going to be an impossible task. There is no third-party mediator able to pull it off. In the past, truces between Israel and Hamas lasted—until they didn't.

Politics are also at play. Sinwar, the leader of Hamas, doesn't have the same internal limitations as Netanyahu does. Whereas Sinwar seems to have a solid hand on the organization's political and military wings, Netanyahu doesn't have a solid hand on anything. Israel's longest-serving prime minister is in an unenviable position: Any decision he makes will be viewed by someone, somewhere, as the wrong one.

If he doesn't sign a deal with Hamas, Netanyahu will feel the full weight and anger of the families who have long since grown tired of his government's ineptitude and lack of compassion. Sign a deal, and Netanyahu risks getting hammered by his far-right coalition partners as a weakling who has caved to Hamas' antics.

The second scenario is not hypothetical; when Netanyahu approved the daily delivery of a measly two fuel trucks into Gaza to ensure the enclave's sewage and water systems were running, he was condemned by folks like National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir as an appeaser giving aid and comfort to the terrorist enemy.

Netanyahu will have to make a judgment call. One hopes he listens to common sense instead of extremists.

Here's what the mass violence in Gaza looks like to a scholar of genocide

By RAZ SEGAL
Los Angeles Times

Raz Segal is an associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies and endowed professor in the study of modern genocide at Stockton University in New Jersey.

I cannot stop thinking about the dozens of Israeli children held in captivity by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in underground tunnels in Gaza, while above them Israel's attack has killed, so far, nearly 4,500 Palestinian children. Stopping the violence, and returning the hostages, is urgent for any person who values all lives. That it is very difficult to imagine how this happens tells a terrible truth: Those with the most power to effect change refuse to recognize the humanity of all people.

There is little doubt that the Palestinians who participated in the mass murder of more than 1,200 Israelis and migrant workers on Oct. 7 did not see their victims as humans, and that decades of Israeli military occupation, siege, oppression and repeated attacks motivated this dehumanization. There is also little doubt about the dehumanization of Palestinians in Israeli society well before Oct. 7. Shirts printed by Israeli army units have depicted pregnant Palestinian women and children as military targets; calls of "death to the Arabs" have characterized the annual settler Flag March through the Old City in Jerusalem; and students as young as 13 in Israel sing anti-Palestinian songs, "hoping that your village burns down."

> Palestinians in Gaza are facing a "slow death" of hunger and thirst, surviving on two pieces of bread and three liters of water a day per person—as much as 97 liters less than the minimum suggestion of the World Health Organization.

Now, Israeli politics, society and media are awash with annihilatory language against Palestinians in Gaza, from the dehumanizing language of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's "total siege" order, where he referred to Palestinians as "human animals," and journalists who have called to turn Gaza "into a slaughterhouse," to banners on bridges in Tel Aviv that call "to annihilate Gaza." Israeli state leaders, ministers in the war cabinet and senior army officers—people with command authority—have used such language dozens of times since Oct. 7 in a way that constitutes clear " intent to destroy," according to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

On Nov. 13, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III for complicity with genocide. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Francisco on behalf of Palestinian individuals and organizations. It requests that the defendants stop "providing further arms, money, and diplomatic support to Israel on grounds that there is an unfolding genocide by the State of Israel against the civilian population of Gaza and the U.S. officials have a legal duty to prevent, and not further, this most serious of crimes," according to the center.

The submission to the court includes an expert declaration by three leading Holocaust and genocide studies scholars: Victoria Sanford, Barry Trachtenberg and John Cox. Sanford has written extensively on genocide and state violence in Latin America, especially in the case of Guatemala. Trachtenberg and Cox have published widely on the Holocaust. They stress in their report that the "levels of destruction and killings in just over one month, together with the annihilatory language expressed by Israeli state leaders and senior army officers, point not to targeting of individual Hamas militants or Hamas military targets, but to the unleashing of deadly violence against Palestinians in Gaza 'as such,' in the language of the UN Genocide Convention."

The assessment of the three senior Holocaust and genocide studies scholars is accurate. Gaza now resembles Ukrainian cities after Russian bombings and invasions, but with levels of destruction and killings that have surpassed in less than a month what we have seen in Ukraine in nearly two years: Official U.N. figures from early September note that Russian attacks killed slightly fewer than 10,000 civilians since February 2022, and injured just above 17,500. Israel has so far killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, wounding nearly 30,000. It is important that Biden described Russia's attack on Ukraine as "genocide" on April 12, 2022, commenting that "we'll let the lawyers decide, internationally, whether or not it qualifies, but it sure seems that way to me." In the same way, Gallant's "total siege" policy, together with the forced displacement of more than 1.5 million of the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, has created what sure seems like genocide.

Indeed, Palestinians in Gaza are facing a "slow death" of hunger and thirst, surviving on two pieces of bread and three liters of water a day per person—as much as 97 liters less than the minimum suggestion of the World Health Organization. The lack of clean water and the severe overcrowding in the southern part of Gaza—where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from the northern part have fled—have markedly increased the risk of outbreak of infectious diseases. The lack of fuel and medical supplies, coupled with Israeli bombings of hospitals and the Israeli army operation inside Shifa Hospital, has turned hospitals into sites of mass death. And all along, Israel continues bombing the southern part of Gaza. No place in Gaza is safe from Israel's assault, which is, in the language of Article 2 (c) of the U.N. Genocide Convention, "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

These unfolding horrors render it extremely difficult to imagine possible futures beyond the violence. I spoke about this last weekend at Kol Tzedek, my Jewish congregation in Philadelphia, from my perspective as an Israeli and Jewish Holocaust and genocide studies scholar. I noted that Israel's mass violence against Palestinians stems from a new Jewish identity, tied to the creation of Israel in 1948: Jewish supremacy. I also noted that white supremacists in Europe and the U.S. find Israeli state practices of Jewish supremacy inspiring— even as they hate Jews in Europe and the U.S. deeply. While Israel and its allies strive to portray any criticism of Israeli policies and violence against Palestinians as antisemitism, some of Israel's greatest supporters, such as American white supremacist Richard Spencer or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, are fierce antisemites.

This terrible fact should direct us to the roots of the historical struggle against antisemitism before the creation of Israel in 1948. It was a struggle that aimed to protect a powerless group from powerful states, not to defend a powerful state in its attack against a powerless group. It was a struggle for a people to live in dignity in a society where everyone's humanity is recognized, not to legitimize a state where leaders, politicians and TV anchors call openly to wipe out places and people.

Imagining possible futures, beyond Israel's Jewish supremacy, then, is for me a political act rooted in Jewish histories and Jewish identities that are not far removed from us. They point to the urgent need to forefront Palestinian voices and experiences, to humanize Palestinians in the face of attempts to demonize and silence them, to call for a cease-fire and the return of all the hostages held in Gaza and the political prisoners held in Israel and to insist on truth, justice and equality for everyone between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

CRITICAL

From page 8

turned political influencer David Axelrod noted on X, formerly Twitter, on Monday morning: "It's despicable. It's disgusting. It's just one more flashing red light."

Like Axelrod, we see those same lights flashing everywhere. It behooves the adults in the room, those who understand the lessons of history, to intervene.

Some have suggested that Thanksgiving dinner should be free of political conversation this year, especially vis-a-vis the Middle East. We suggest that some at the table work on their listening skills when it comes to family members with experience and context.

And put the phones away.

©2023 Chicago Tribune

The Artsy Fartsy of Lying: A Trumpian tragicomic trilogy

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Inspired by Gwendolyn Brooks poem:
"We Real Cool, the Pool Players, Seven At the Golden Shovel":

I Lie Good...Bigly Good

(notice the prominence of ego here, as we go to Mar a Lago for another year)

I lie good I know I should, I
lie easy and quick fast and slick, I
pay lawyers little humiliate and belittle, I
love myself and me care less about thee, I
can't stand my sycophant followers, I
always prevaricate must dominate, I
unrealistic malignant narcissistic, I
never realistic my temper ballistic, I
love to sit on my golden throne toilet, I
will never let an election spoil it, I
showed a smile in my jail mugshot, I
turned it into a scowl meanwhile, I
haven't forgotten my version of truth, I
know it is crude and uncouth.

A Liar Squirmin' With Vermin

Liar! Liar! On line and on cyberwire
from morning past noon to late at night
with personal and profound prevarication
distorting truth in almost every situation

In many states from the North to the South
ridiculous rhetoric spumes from his mouth
whatever his MAGA base want and desire
his campaign is hot new theories to conspire

Millions hove heard the lies he has spread
as a sly Fox repeats every word he has said
who cares about impeachment or indictment
as sycophantic vote deniers gain excitement

Like Blake's Tyger with "fearful symmetry"
he crafts his campaign of fascistic autocracy.

It is Easy to Just Vote No

Some say nay negative or negatory
some others say absolutely no way
some say that is another tall story
some plainly simply just say no

Some say Hey there's no way dude
on that guy we will never ever go
other say BS or something crude
some plainly simply just say no

Some say impossible not possible
some say you can just go shove it
he is totally inadequate irresponsible
some just say no again and love it

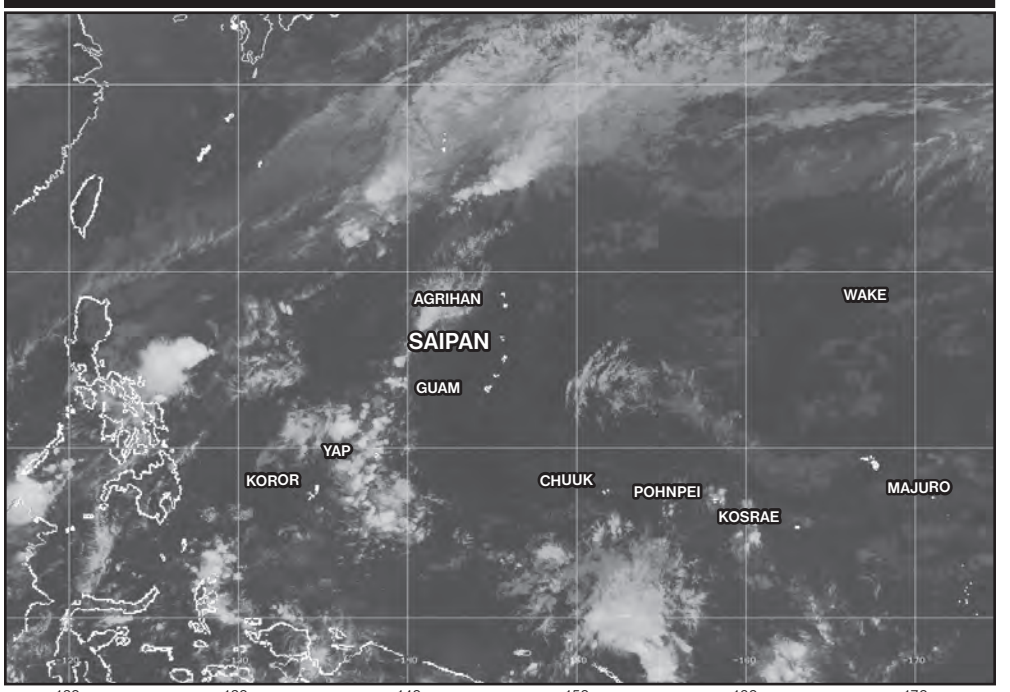
Please open your mind and eyes
it is not at all wrong you know
to your surprise you might find
it is really easy to just vote no.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88 77°	88 77°	88 77°	88 77°	88 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar shows short-lived, fast moving isolated showers throughout the Mariana islands. Altimetry shows combined seas near 6 to 7 feet to the west and buoys confirms these seas, with 6 to 7 feet also.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:09 AM	2:35 PM
Friday	-	3:04 AM	3:15 PM
Saturday	-	4:00 AM	3:57 PM
Sunday	-	4:58 AM	4:42 PM
Monday	-	5:57 AM	5:30 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 60°
Beijing	Fair/Wind	59° / 38°
Hong Kong	Fair	75° / 65°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 71°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Los Angeles	Clear	81° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Rain	48° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	65° / 46°
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 37°
Busan	Windy	43° / 28°
Rome	Sunny	64° / 43°
Salem	Sunny	68° / 48°
San Francisco	Fair	64° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 31°
Tokyo	Sunny	65° / 47°
Washington, DC	Sunny	56° / 40°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:50 AM	High Tide	1.36
9:58 AM	Low Tide	0.31
4:32 PM	High Tide	1.89
11:21 PM	Low Tide	0.26

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Hyatt offers limited time offer to CNMI, Guam residents

Hyatt Regency Saipan understands it is important taking time to slow down from the daily household responsibilities and prioritizing family which supports unity and wellbeing.

Without spending on a faraway journey, Hyatt Regency Saipan has created a limited time offer to all CNMI and Guam residents, for the last quarter of the year, perfectly aligned when big occasions like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year are set to unfold.

For a low as $140, residents can enjoy a night in an Ocean View Room with complimentary breakfast buffet at Kili Café & Terrace. The booking period is from Nov. 15 to 31, 2023 for hotel stays between Nov. 21, 2023 to Jan. 2, 2024. Simply visit Hyatt.com and book under the offer code LOCAL and present an identification card upon check-in.

HYATT

Delivering an incredible vacation to CNMI and Guam residents is at the top of Hyatt Regency Saipan's list.

While in residence you may enjoy hotel services such as the fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, tennis and pickleball courts, beach loungers as well as complimentary Wi-Fi connections, parking, and many more. Find yourself frolicking at Micro Beach or try some of the open water activities available at Seawind Saipan. Alternatively, enjoy some health and fitness activities such as sunset yoga or pool side Zumba taking place regularly on the hotel resort.

Start your morning with a cup of freshly prepared coffee from our house grinded beans at DJ's Corner or wind down watching the Marianas sunset while sipping your favorite cocktail at Skipper's Beach Bar. For a culinary journey of delightful menu items, allow our dining venues to take center stage.

Kili Café & Terrace offers local and international dishes daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Marianas Grill & Barbecue buffet with unlimited beer servings each Saturday evening. The only Japanese buffet in Saipan is being offered at Miyako, welcoming you for lunch and dinner times. For a true Italian trattoria dinner experience, Hyatt's legacy Giovanni's serves an array of authentic rich flavors, inspired by a selection of different provinces in Italy. Sundays, the consistent and extensive brunch opens its doors from 11am to 2pm where unlimited sparkling wine and beer are popularly served. Personalize your Sunday brunch at either the air-conditioned Giovanni's or near the lagoon, overlooking the resort from Kili's Terrace.

It is the season to be with your loved ones with a unique stay-cation promotion at Hyatt Regency Saipan. For room reservations, go directly to saipan.regency@hyatt.com or call (670) 234-1234. Visit our Instagram and FaceBook pages @hyattregencysaipan for up-to-date promos and fun activities at the hotel.

Offer is valid for two adults and a child below the age of 6 years old. Taxes and resort fees apply. ***(Hyatt)***

BOG's Cook appointed to nat'l council for bank leaders

Cook

HAGATNA, Guam — American Bankers Association has selected Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, president and chief executive Officer of Bank of Guam, to serve on ABA's Community Bankers Council.

Cook joined community bankers from around the country at the ABA Community Bankers Council meeting in Washington from Nov. 13 to 15.

During the council meeting, bankers discussed the latest challenges currently facing community banks including issues about public policy, operations and business issues that impact the nation's hometown banks and their communities.

Discussions on legislative priorities include the ACRE Act, Credit Card Competition Act and SAFER Banking Act; and regulatory issues, including Section 1033 of the Dodd-Frank act, debit card interchange fees, and the Administration's executive order on artificial intelligence.

Council members also had a chance to share ways high interest rates have affected the business of banking, and exchange ideas on deposit generation, loan growth, talent recruitment and retention, and other business and operational best practices.

"I am honored to accept this appointment and excited for the opportunity to represent our islands and advocate for the continued success of local banks across our region. I look forward to working with community bankers from across the nation on ways to strengthen policies that have an impact on the vitality of our island communities," said Cook.

ABA's Community Bankers Council, which meets twice a year, is made up of approximately 100 bankers from across the country from institutions with generally less than $5 billion in assets. Members are appointed by the ABA chair.

Cook was appointed as the president and CEO and vice chair of the board of directors for Bank of Guam in 2019 and has been with the Bank since 2001. Cook currently serves on the boards for the Guam Visitors Bureau, IP&E Holdings LLC, ASC Trust Corp, B&C, and Pacific Coast Banking School. ***(BOG)***

BOIL WATER NOTICE
SAIPAN

AS TERLAJE & KANNAT TABLA TANK SERVICE AREAS (TSA)

EFFECTIVE: Tuesday, November 21, 2023
ENDING: Until Further Notice

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID: MP0000001

BOIL YOUR WATER FOR THREE MINUTES BEFORE USING.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) would like to inform customers in the areas of ***Chalan Laulau, Iliyang, Chalan Kiya, San Jose, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Oleai, and portions of Fina Sisu, Gualo Rai, As Lito, As Perdido and Garapan*** *(see attached map)* that due to contamination of the *As Terlaje and Kannat Tabla Tank Service Areas (TSA)*, the issuance of a boil water notice has been prompted on **November 21, 2023.**

E. coli bacteria were found in the water supply on ***November 20, 2023***. This bacteria can make you sick, and is especially a concern for people with weakened immune systems. Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil for at least three (3) minutes, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. **ALL STORED WATER, DRINKS OR ICE MADE RECENTLY FROM THIS SUPPLY SHOULD BE DISCARDED.**

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

WHAT IS CUC DOING?

During the routine sample collection on ***November 20, 2023***, CUC staff found low levels of chlorine in two (2) samples serving the affected areas. Additional samples were collected on ***November 20, 2023***, and one of the additional samples contained E. coli. Water operation staff discovered that the chlorination system at the treatment station malfunctioned. As an immediate remedy, CUC installed a temporary chlorine station at IF-106 as Operations is still analyzing the issue at the primary chlorination treatment station.

CUC Operations corrected the problem on ***November 21, 2023***, and verified the system contains adequate amounts of chlorine. CUC will continue to collect samples until there is no detection of such contamination. Results from additional samples will be available on ***November 23, 2023***. We will inform you when tests show *all clear* for E. coli and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem by ***November 24, 2023.***

For more information, please contact **CUC Customer Service** at **(670) 664-4282.** General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at **1-800-426-4791.**

(670) 664-4282 /CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation
www.cucgov.org @commonwealthutilitiescorp

Nation

FOR THANKSGIVING

Record crowds expected to take to the air, roads

DALLAS (AP)—Despite inflation and memories of past holiday travel meltdowns, millions of people are expected to hit airports and highways in record numbers over the Thanksgiving break.

The busiest days to fly will be Tuesday and Wednesday as well as the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 2.6 million passengers on Tuesday and 2.7 million passengers on Wednesday. Sunday will draw the largest crowds with an estimated 2.9 million passengers, which would narrowly eclipse a record set on June 30.

Meanwhile, AAA forecasts that 55.4 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home between next Wednesday and the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with roads likely to be the most clogged on Wednesday.

The weather could snarl air and road traffic. A storm system was expected to move from the southern Plains to the Northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday. Parts of Maine, Vermont and northern New Hampshire are expected to get 3 to 7 inches (7 to 17 centimeters) of snow between Tuesday night and Wednesday.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said during a news conference Monday that the government has tried to better prepare for holiday travel by hiring more air traffic controllers, opening new air routes along the East Coast and providing grants to airports for snowplows and deicing equipment. He warned travelers to check road conditions and flight times before leaving home.

"Mother Nature, of course, is the X factor in all of this," he said.

The good news for travelers by plane and car alike: Prices are coming down.

Airfares are averaging $268 per ticket, down 14% from a year ago, according to the travel site Hopper.

Gasoline prices are down about 37 cents a gallon from this time last year. The national average was $3.29 per gallon on Tuesday, according to AAA, down from $3.66 a year ago.

A survey of GasBuddy users found that despite cheaper pump prices, the number of people planning to take a long driving trip this Thanksgiving hasn't changed much from last year. Patrick De Haan, an analyst for the price-tracking service, said inflation has cooled but some things like food are still getting more expensive. Consumers are also charging more on credit cards and saving less.

"Sure, they love the falling gas prices, but a lot of Americans spent in other ways this summer and they may not be ready to open their wallets for Thanksgiving travel just yet," De Haan said.

Jennifer Bonham opted to take the train from New York to Kansas City to spend Thanksgiving with her fiance after checking out flights and finding them "astronomically expensive."

"My fiance had an idea. He's like, I wonder if there are trains? So we go to looking and it was honestly the best price that we got. I don't have any money. I'm a single mom. The cheaper, the better," said Bonham, while switching trains at Chicago's Union Station with her teenage daughter.

Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday travel season, and many still haven't shaken last December's nightmare before Christmas, when severe winter storms knocked out thousands of flights and left millions of passengers stranded.

Scott Keyes, founder of the travel site Going, is cautiously optimistic that holiday air travel won't be the same mess. So far this year, he said, airlines have avoided massive disruptions.

"Everyone understands that airlines can't control Mother Nature," Keyes said. "What really irks people are the controllable cancellations — those widespread disruptions because the airline couldn't get their act together because their system melted down the way Southwest did over Christmas."

Nearly half of Americans think US spending too much on Ukraine aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—As lawmakers in Washington weigh sending billions more in federal support to Kyiv to help fight off Russian aggression, close to half of the U.S. public thinks the country is spending too much on aid to Ukraine, according to polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Those sentiments, driven primarily by Republicans, help explain the hardening opposition among conservative GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill who are rebuffing efforts from President Joe Biden to approve a new tranche of Ukraine aid, arguing that the money would be better spent for domestic priorities.

Yet opposition to aid is down slightly from where it was a month ago in another AP-NORC poll. Now, 45% say the U.S. government is spending too much on aid to Ukraine in the war against Russia, compared with 52% in October. That shift appears to come mostly from Republicans: 59% now say too much is spent on Ukraine aid, but that's down from 69% in October.

Nonetheless, the Republican resistance to continued Ukraine aid remains strong.

"I understand the citizens need help, but I feel like we're spending way too much money on Ukraine when we have our issues here, on our own soil, that we need to deal with," said Eric Mondello, 40, from Fountain, Colorado. Pointing to needs such as health care for veterans and homelessness in communities, Mondello added: "I understand the U.S. has been an ally to others, but I feel like, let's take care of our people first."

More than one-third (38%) of U.S. adults say that current spending is "about the right amount," which is up slightly from last month (31%). Among Republicans, nearly 3 in 10 (29%) say the current spending is about right, up from 20% last month.

Paula Graves, 69, is among those who says the amount of spending for Ukraine is the right amount.

"Putin, he's straight up evil. I don't think there should be any question in anyone's mind," said Graves, of Clovis, California. "He's a dictator. He's infringed on human rights, he's a very scary person and if Ukraine falls to him, who's next? What country's next?"

Graves, who says she is not affiliated with a political party but leans more conservative, said she believes the U.S. has a leadership role on the global stage and added: "I think we definitely need to put America first, but I don't think that needs to be first and only."

World

Israel, Hamas agree on truce-for-hostages deal

AP

Families and friends of about 240 hostages held by Hamas in Gaza call for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to bring them home during a demonstration in Tel Aviv, Israel Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Qatar on Wednesday announced a truce-for-hostages deal between Israel and Hamas that would bring a four-day halt in fighting in a devastating six-week war, win freedom for dozens of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, and also lead to the release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said it would announce within a day when the clock will start ticking on the truce, during which 50 hostages will be released in stages in exchange for what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinians prisoners held by Israel. Those freed by both sides will be women and children.

Humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza would also increase.

The announcement came hours after Israel's Cabinet approved the deal. It capped weeks of indirect Qatari-led negotiations between Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The United States and Egypt were also involved in stop-and-go talks to free some of the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas and other militants in Gaza.

Hostage releases will begin roughly 24 hours after the deal is approved by all parties, said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office made no mention of the release of Palestinian prisoners or increased humanitarian aid when it confirmed the Cabinet had approved the deal.

"The government of Israel is committed to bringing all of the hostages home. Tonight, the government approved the outline for the first stage of achieving this goal," the office said in a statement.

Ahead of the Cabinet vote, which came after a six-hour meeting stretching into the early morning, Netanyahu said the war against Hamas would resume after the truce expires.

"We are at war, and we will continue the war," he said. "We will continue until we achieve all our goals."

In welcoming the deal, President Joe Biden emphasized that Netanyahu has committed to supporting an "extended pause" to make sure not only all hostages are released but that humanitarian assistance can be sent to Palestinians in Gaza.

White House concerned Iran would provide ballistic missiles to Russia for use vs Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House voiced concern Tuesday that Iran may provide Russia with ballistic missiles for use in its war against Ukraine, a development that likely would be disastrous for the Ukrainian people, a U.S. national security official said.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby noted that Iran already has been providing Russia with unmanned aerial vehicles or drones, guided aerial bombs and artillery ammunition, and may be preparing "to go a step further in its support for Russia."

Kirby highlighted a September meeting in which Iran hosted Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to show off a range of ballistic missile systems, sparking U.S. concern.

"We are therefore concerned that Iran is considering providing Russia with ballistic missiles now for use in Ukraine," Kirby told reporters during a conference call. "In return for that support, Russia has been offering Tehran unprecedented defense cooperation, including on missiles, electronics and air defense."

Kirby's warning came as President Joe Biden's request for more than $61 billion in emergency U.S. funding to continue to support Ukraine's defense remained stalled in Congress. The additional aid for Ukraine is part of a larger $106 billion funding request from the Democratic president that also would support Israel, Taiwan and the U.S. operations on the border with Mexico.

A growing group of lawmakers in the Republican Party, which controls the House of Representatives, opposes sending more money to Ukraine.

Kirby and other top U.S. officials have been urging Congress to pass aid for Ukraine, saying existing funding is drying up.

Environment

AS CARBON EMISSIONS RISE INSTEAD OF PLUNGE

UN report says world is racing to well past warming limit

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Earth is speeding to 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius (4.5 to 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming since pre-industrial times, set to blow well past the agreed-upon international climate threshold, a United Nations report calculated.

To have an even money shot at keeping warming to the 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) limit adopted by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, countries have to slash their emissions by 42% by the end of the decade, said the U.N. Environment Programme's Emissions Gap report issued Monday. Carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas rose 1.2% last year, the report said.

This year Earth got a taste of what's to come, said the report, which sets the table for international climate talks later this month.

Through the end of September, the daily global average temperature exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels on 86 days this year, the report said. But that increased to 127 days because nearly all of the first two weeks of November and all of October reached or exceeded 1.5 degrees, according to the European climate service Copernicus. That's 40% of the days so far this year.

On Friday, the globe hit 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees) above pre-industrial levels for the first time in recorded history, according to Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess.

"It's really an indication that we are already seeing a change, an acceleration," said report lead author Anne Olhoff of Denmark's climate think tank Concito. "Based on what science tells us, this is just like a whisper. What will be in the future will be more like a roar."

It's dangerous already, said UNEP Director Inger Andersen.

"Temperatures are hitting new heights, while extreme weather events are occurring more and more often, developing faster and becoming much more intense," Andersen said. The new report "tells us that it's going to take a massive and urgent shift to avoid these records falling year after year."

The 1.5-degree goal is based on a time period measured over many years, not days, scientists said. Earlier reports put Earth reaching that longer term limit in early 2029 without dramatic emission changes.

To keep that from happening, the countries of the world have to come up with more stringent goals to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and implement policies to act on those goals, Olhoff said.

> Temperatures are hitting new heights, while extreme weather events are occurring more and more often, developing faster and becoming much more intense.

In the past two years only nine countries have come up with new goals, so that hasn't moved the needle, but some countries, including the United States and those in Europe, have put policies in place that slightly improved the outlook, she said.

The United States' Inflation Reduction Act, which has $375 billion in spending on clean energy, by 2030 would reduce yearly emissions of carbon dioxide by about 1 billion metric tons, Olhoff said.

That sounds like a lot, but the world in 2022 spewed 57.4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases. Current country pledges would trim that to 55 billion metric tons, and to limit warming to the 1.5 degree mark emissions in 2030 have to be down to 33 billion metric tons. That's an "emissions gap" of 22 billion metric tons.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "the emissions gap is more like an emissions canyon—a canyon littered with broken promises, broken lives and broken records."

That's why the report said the chance of keeping warming at or under 1.5 degrees is about one-in-seven or about 14%, "very, very slim indeed," Olhoff said.

If the world wants to settle for a warming limit of 2 degrees Celsius—a secondary threshold in the Paris agreement—it only has to trim emissions down to 41 billion metric tons, with a gap of 16 billion metric tons from now, the report said.

Because the world has already warmed nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-19th century, the report's projections would mean another 1.3 to 1.7 degrees Celsius (2.3 to 3.1 degrees Fahrenheit) warming by the end of this century.

For two years countries have known they have to come up with more ambitious emission cuts targets if the world wants to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, but "none of the large emitters have changed their pledges," said study co-author Niklas Hohne, a scientist at the New Climate Institute in Germany.

That's why for the past few years the grim outlook from annual Emissions Gap reports barely changed, Olhoff said.

This year's emissions gap report is accurate yet not surprising and the projected temperature range fits with other groups' calculations, said Climate Analytics scientist Bill Hare, who wasn't part of the report.

Guterres reiterated his call for countries to phase out the use of fossil fuels in time to keep the 1.5 degree limit alive, saying "otherwise we're simply inflating the lifeboats while breaking the oars."

"We know now that the impacts of climate change, of global warming of somewhere between 2.5 and 3 degrees Celsius are going to be massive," Olhoff said in an interview. "It's basically not a future I think anybody would want for their children and grandchildren and so forth. The good news, of course, is that we can act and we know what we have to do."

Climate change hits women's health harder. Activists want leaders to address it at COP28

NEW DELHI (AP)—Manju Devi suffered in pain for two months last year as she worked on a farm near Delhi, unable to break away from duties that sometimes had her standing for hours in the waist-deep water of a rice paddy, lifting heavy loads in intense heat and spraying pesticides and insecticides. When that pain finally became too much to bear, she was rushed to a hospital.

The doctors' verdict: Devi had suffered a prolapsed uterus and would need a hysterectomy. She hadn't said a word to her family about her discomfort because of societal taboo over discussing a "women's illness," and with two grown children and three grandchildren looking to the 56-year-old widow to help put food on the table, Devi had relied on painkillers to stay in the fields.

"I endured excruciating pain for months, scared to speak about it publicly. It shouldn't take a surgical procedure to make us realize the cost of increasing heat," she said, surrounded by women who told of undergoing a similar ordeal.

As the annual U.N.-led climate summit known as COP is set to convene later this month in Dubai, activists are urging policymakers to respond to climate change's disproportionate impact on women and girls, especially where poverty makes them more vulnerable.\

Their recommendations include securing land rights for women, promoting women's cooperatives and encouraging women to lead on developing climate policy. They also suggest that countries—especially developing countries like India—commit more money in their budgets to ensure gender equity in climate policies.

Group of 20 leaders who met in New Delhi in September also recognized the problem, calling for accelerating climate action with gender equality at its core by increasing women's participation and leadership in mitigation and adaptation.

Devi is a farm worker in Syaraul, a village of about 7,000 a couple of hours southeast of Delhi in Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest and most populous state. Several other middle-aged and older women from the village described similar injuries leading to hysterectomies.

The link between phenomena like uterine prolapse and climate change is indirect but significant, said Seema Bhaskaran, who tracks gender issues for the nonprofit Transform Rural India Foundation.

UZMI ATHAR/AP

Mamta Kumari, a farm worker, takes a brief break between harvesting wheat on a farm in Nanu village in Uttar Pradesh state, India, on Oct. 17, 2023.

"Women in rural, climate-affected communities often bear the brunt of physically demanding agricultural work, made more strenuous by climate change-related challenges like erratic weather and increased labor needs," Bhaskaran said. "While climate change doesn't directly cause uterine prolapse, it magnifies the underlying health challenges and conditions that make women more susceptible to such health issues."

About 150 kilometers (93 miles) away, in Nanu village, 62-year-old farm worker Savita Singh blames climate change for a chemical infection that cost her a finger in August 2022.

When her husband moved to Delhi to work as a plumber, she was left alone to tend the couple's fields. As rice and wheat yields fell due to shifting climate patterns and a surge in pest attacks, Singh's husband, who retained decision-making power, decided to increase the use of pesticides and insecticides. It was up to Singh, who had opposed the increases, to apply the chemicals.

"With the rise in pest attacks in farms, we have started using more than three times pesticides and fertilizers in our farms and without any safety gears my hand got burned by the chemicals and one of my fingers had to be amputated," she said.

In Pilakhana, another Uttar Pradesh village, 22-year-old wage laborer Babita Kumari suffered stillbirths in 2021 and this year that she attributes to the heavy lifting she endured daily in working a brick kiln for long hours in intense heat. Climate change at least doubled the chances of the heat wave that hit the state this year, according to an analysis by Climate Central, an independent U.S.-based group of scientists that developed a tool to quantify climate change's contribution to changing daily temperatures.

"My mother and her mother all have worked in brick kilns all their lives but the heat was not this bad even though they worked for more than eight hours like me. But for the past six-seven years the situation has worsened and heat has become unbearable to withstand but what option do we have than to endure it," said Kumari, who lives in a makeshift camp with her husband.

Life & Style

Turkey rules, but poll finds disagreement over other classics

By MARK KENNEDY and LINLEY SANDERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thanksgiving may be a time for Americans to come together, but opinion is divided over what's on the crowded dinner table. We mostly agree on the deliciousness of pumpkin pie, say, but are split over the eternal turkey question of dark meat versus white meat.

And don't even ask if marshmallows belong on sweet potatoes—it could cause a ruckus.

AP
A barbecue spiced turkey appears in Concord, N.H., on Oct. 27, 2014.

The bird

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults (32%) who will celebrate Thanksgiving this year say turkey is their favorite dish in the holiday feast, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Stuffing or dressing (19%) and mashed potatoes (6%) come in second and third.

"Thanksgiving—it's about turkey," said Ralph Caya, 71, from Pensacola, Florida, who participated in the survey.

On the other hand, Vaidehi Upadhyaya, a 27-year-old pharmacist in Glen Rock, New Jersey, is a lifelong vegetarian. It's all about the side dishes for her.

Although turkey is tops across U.S. regions and ages, there's a slight generational divide. Americans 45 or older are especially likely to call turkey the best thing on the Thanksgiving table (39%), while younger adults who agree come in at 24%.

Once the turkey is carved, about 4 in 10 celebrators (43%) prefer white meat over dark (28%), and about one in five (21%) have no preference. Older people are more likely than those under 45 to prefer dark meat (31% vs. 24%).

About 1 in 10 adults under 45 don't like the big bird at all.

"I have to go with the white meat," says Carlos Stallworth, 58, of Los Angeles, who also thinks ahead to leftovers. "You're not going to get a great slice of dark meat to go on a sandwich. But with the white meat, you get that."

The sauce

As for the least favorite dishes on the Thanksgiving table, look no further than cranberries. About 2 in 10 celebrators say cranberries or cranberry sauce wouldn't be missed. (For the record, KRC Research reports 80 million pounds of cranberries are eaten during Thanksgiving week.)

Caya says cranberries on the table are "important," but Upadhyaya is "pretty indifferent," adding: "I'll eat it if it's there but it's like not exciting by any means."

Stallworth, who has taken a few culinary courses, appreciates what cranberries do on the big day: "You definitely want a clash with the salty and the gaminess of the meat. So to me, cranberry is a must."

Thanksgiving celebrators are generally divided on whether it's better to have cranberry sauce from a can or homemade. About one-quarter (24%) say the canned sauce is preferable, while 22% want it made from scratch. About one-third (35%) just don't like cranberry sauce, with those under 45 being more likely than older adults to dislike it.

The pie

According the poll, pumpkin pie is the safe bet if you want to make the average guest happy. One-third of U.S. adults who will celebrate Thanksgiving say that's their preferred dessert.

Pecan pie got 17%, apple pie was right behind with 15% and sweet potato pie was at 12%. Chocolate pie and cherry or berry pie were in the single digits.

Caya, in Florida, bypasses the pumpkin to go with a regional delicacy. "Being this close to Georgia, I've got to go with pecan," he says.

Oh, and about the sweet potatoes...

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Accuser sues Bill Cosby for alleged abuse dating to 1980s under expiring New York survivors law

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman who worked as a stand-in at "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s said in a lawsuit Tuesday that Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her after offering to mentor her in her acting career. It is the latest in a string of lawsuits filed against Cosby under New York's expiring Adult Survivors Act, which has given victims of sexual abuse a one-year window for claims that would otherwise be barred by time limits. That window closes on Thanksgiving. The anonymous accuser said that soon after meeting Cosby while working on his show, he started offering style tips and performing acting exercises with her in his dressing room. When he invited her to his home, she accepted, she said, in part because of "Cosby's wholesome image as `America's Dad,'" according to the lawsuit.

Dire Straits frontman Mark Knopfler is putting some of his guitars up for auction

LONDON (AP)—Dire Straits frontman Mark Knopfler will sell off a collection of guitars he considers "old friends" at a Christie's auction in London next year. The musician, whose distinctive finger-picking style drove hits for the British rockers including "Sultans of Swing" and "Money for Nothing," is putting 120 guitars and amps up for sale in London on Jan. 31, the auction house said Tuesday. Estimated sale prices range from 300 pounds ($375) for an electric-acoustic mandolin to 500,000 pounds ($625,000) for a 1959 Gibson Les Paul Standard with a cherry red sunburst finish. A 1983 Les Paul that Knopfler played on Dire Straits' chart-topping 1985 album "Brothers in Arms" and onstage that year at Live Aid has an estimated price of 10,000 to 15,00 pounds.

The Rolling Stones announce 2024 North American Tour in support of 'Hackney Diamonds' album

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Last month, The Rolling Stones released "Hackney Diamonds," their first album of original material in 18 years. Tuesday, the legendary English band announced they're taking it on the road. Starting on April 28 in Houston and concluding in Santa Clara, California, on July 17, the Stones will make their way across the U.S. and Canada. The tour hits 16 major cities, including New Orleans, Las Vegas, Seattle, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sister has a penchant for telling tall tales

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, my younger sister, "Hannah," has been lying about some significant things, such as: She claims she was there alone with our dad when he died; that our older sister tried to talk her into signing herself into a state mental hospital; that my boyfriend was imaginary, etc.

Her most recent fabrication, told to an elderly relative, is that our mother put Hannah unattended on a plane from New York to Virginia when she was 12, with a layover in Philadelphia. She said a man on the plane befriended her and took her to the VIP lounge, where he gave her wine and abandoned her there. The trip was supposedly to go to our older sister's to assist with a newborn baby.

A quick math check showed the baby wasn't born until Hannah was 15. When that fact was presented to her, Hanna said, "Well, then the trip was for some other reason." Our older sister says Hannah NEVER came to Virginia on a plane or otherwise. This most recent lie has bothered me more than the others because I thought Hannah was doing better.

Many people have suggested to her that she might benefit from medication, but she refuses to even consider that. Should I just let it go? I couldn't say she was a danger to herself or others, so reporting her behavior wouldn't get her the help she needs.

FAR FROM THE TRUTH

DEAR FAR: Your sister is a fabulist—someone who composes or relates fables and invents elaborate, untrue stories. From what you have described, she cannot help herself. Some people do this because they need to be the center of attention. You aren't going to change Hannah, and medication won't make her condition go away. Let it go.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, with the support of my wife, I voluntarily gave up driving. I have some minor memory problems and depth perception issues. I leave the house only when I walk the dog or my wife drives me somewhere. Being practically housebound has caused my mental health to deteriorate.

I would like to revisit this driving privileges issue with my wife. I will propose that I enroll in a remedial driving school to relearn my skills. My wife is dead set against it. I'm not sure she would be amenable to driving remediation. What do you think?

MISSES MOBILITY IN OHIO

DEAR MISSES MOBILITY: I can understand your wife's reluctance to allow you to resume driving. Driving lessons may not be enough to compensate for your vision problem, and if there is a danger of your becoming lost (again) and winding up God knows where, you should not be behind the wheel.

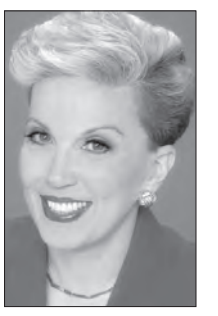
This, however, DOESN'T mean you must remain imprisoned in the house. Explore what public transportation is available in your city. If it is not convenient, consider using a driving service—Uber and Lyft come to mind—to take you where you want to go. They are as simple to use as installing their apps and typing in your desired destination. Check them out. Many people of every age use and enjoy them.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

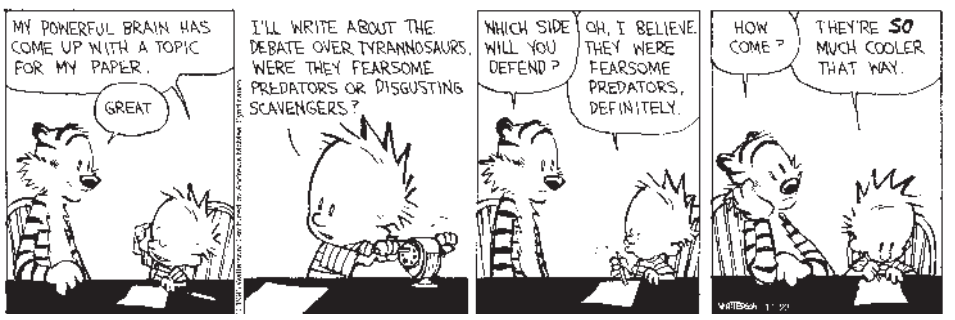


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY POWERFUL BRAIN HAS COME UP WITH A TOPIC FOR MY PAPER.
GREAT
I'LL WRITE ABOUT THE DEBATE OVER TYRANNOSAURS. WERE THEY FEARSOME PREDATORS OR DISGUSTING SCAVENGERS?
WHICH SIDE WILL YOU DEFEND?
OH, I BELIEVE THEY WERE FEARSOME PREDATORS, DEFINITELY.
HOW COME?
THEY'RE SO MUCH COOLER THAT WAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

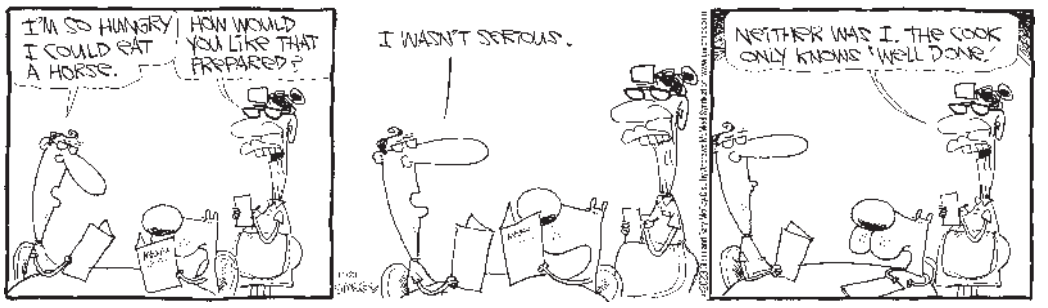
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR, NEWMANS. MY NEW JOB...
MOM'S BOOKS ARE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES.
AW.
CLAYTON AND KATY ARE GETTING ALONG...
POKE ME AGAIN AND LOSE AN EAR.
AND NICK AND GUMBO GET SOME SCREENTIME!
11-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A HORSE.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THAT PREPARED?
I WASN'T SERIOUS.
NEITHER WAS I. THE COOK ONLY KNOWS "WELL DONE."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Long for
5 Nota —
9 Workout venue
12 German car name
13 Japanese noodle
14 "The Love-birds" star Issa
15 Thanks-giving
17 The whole enchilada
18 Obis
19 Track events
21 Hectic hosp. area
22 Antlered animal
24 Flan ingredi-ents
27 Actress Bertinelli, to friends
28 Miles away
31 Army address
32 Blackbird
33 First numero
34 Thick chunk
36 Sean, to Yoko
37 Oodles
38 Consumer crusader Ralph
40 Commer-cial
41 Gooey treat
43 Derisive sounds
47 Little rascal
48 Serving dish at a turkey dinner
51 Transcript no.
52 Bern's river
53 Franc replace-ment
54 Sound from a hot grill
55 Tibia's place
56 Leftovers recipe

DOWN
1 Witty ones
2 Mystique
3 Secret-protecting docs
4 Church donations
5 "No ifs, ands or —"
6 College URL ender
7 Auction signal
8 January, to Juan
9 Ballerina-like
10 Harvard rival
11 "Alice" diner
16 Suffix with hotel
20 Red — beet
22 Estate house
23 Lena of "Choco-lat"
24 Curvy letter
25 Base-ball's Hodges
26 Family patriarchs
27 Bud holder
29 Year in Madrid
30 Non-sense
35 Satchel
37 Pueblo structures
39 Painter of ballerinas
40 Whatever amount
41 Pear-shaped fruits
42 Diamond arbiters
43 Swedish man's name
44 Lopsided win
45 Empty truck's weight
46 Pack cargo
49 Fan's shout
50 "Exodus" hero

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	L	I	P		A	A	S		I	D	I	G
T	O	R	F		R	C	A		F	I	D	O
D	R	A	C	H	M	A	S		O	P	E	L
S	E	S	A	M	E		H	U	R	L	E	D
			N	O	N		A	R	G	O		
M	S	G		S	I	A		L	O	M	A	N
D	A	R	T		A	G	O		T	A	K	E
S	L	A	W	S		T	U	B		S	A	W
		N	O	T	S		R	D	I			
R	E	D	S	E	A		T	A	M	A	I	F
A	M	M	O		D	I	C	R	A	M	A	S
I	M	A	M		A	W	W		C	A	M	P
L	A	S	E		T	O	N		S	T	A	N

Yesterday's answer 11-23

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				16					■	17		
18						■	■	19	20			
■	■	■	21		■	22	23				■	■
24	25	26		■	27			■	28		29	30
31			■	■	32			■	■	33		
34			35	■	36			■	37			
■	■	38		39			■	40		■	■	■
41	42				■	■	43			44	45	46
47			■	48	49	50						
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 31; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 56; Robin Roberts, 63; Bruce Hornsby, 69.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, fact-check and find your comfort spot before you discuss your plans or make changes that will alter your routine or living arrangements. Stay on top of your priorities, health and getting along with people with something to contribute to your adventure. Take the path that ensures an unforgettable journey filled with gratitude and lifelong memories. Take responsibility for your happiness. Your numbers are 7, 13, 21, 24, 32, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be open about how you feel, and avoid a situation that can stifle your plans. A trip, educational pursuit or meeting will create something new and exciting. Don't hesitate to reunite with someone you think might be interested in joining you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't share secrets or participate in joint ventures. You'll do your best by handling matters yourself and taking a pass on offers you have no control over. Put in the time, and you'll get the desired results and a chance to further your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll gravitate toward misleading people; when in doubt, ask questions. Keep an open mind, but stay focused on your best interests. Use your charm to outmaneuver someone trying to manipulate you. Take control and run the show. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let what you cannot change get you down. Concentrate on being innovative and following creative ideas. What you do will have an impact on your outlook and how others perceive you. Don't let emotions lead you astray or stop you from reaching your goal. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mix business with pleasure, have fun and enjoy what life has to offer. Open discussions will lead to valuable information regarding something you thought was out of reach. Think big, but let moderation be your motto. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Live and learn. Take advantage of information or opportunities you encounter that can change your life. Actions speak louder than words, so don't waste time contemplating what to do when movement will get you to the finish line. Network and participate, and you'll make headway. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make things happen. Size up situations and create an opportunity to talk to someone in the know who can add value to something you want to pursue. Don't hold back or fear rejection or failure. What you learn will help you move forward. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An energetic approach to life, love and happiness will change how others treat you. A positive outlook regarding relationships, trying something new and creating opportunities will get you where you want to go. An updated image or look will boost your morale. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Push to achieve the momentum you require to reach your destination. Don't be afraid to let your emotions lead the way. Honesty and integrity are necessary if you want to maintain a positive reputation and the respect you deserve from your peers. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stay calm, regardless of what others say. Remove yourself from chaotic situations and head toward positive personal change that makes you feel good about yourself and your station in life. Protect your physical and mental well-being from negativity and bullies. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider what's available and how to expand your options to include what you enjoy most. Advocate on your behalf if you want to get things done your way and head in a direction that motivates you. Romance and personal improvement are favored. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't set yourself up for failure or let someone lead you astray. Stay focused on what matters to you, and make changes that ensure you make positive financial gains. Invest time and money into how you earn your living and pay your way forward. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, optimistic and helpful. You are spontaneous and passionate.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4				7				
	8	1	5			4	7	
					6	8	5	
		9			1			
						5		8
6		8		2	5			
			2					9
8	7	2	1			3	6	
9					3	2		7

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	8	4	1	9	6	5	2	3
6	5	9	4	2	3	8	7	1
2	1	3	8	7	5	6	4	9
3	4	1	2	5	8	9	6	7
5	6	8	9	3	7	4	1	2
9	7	2	6	1	4	3	8	5
4	2	5	7	8	9	1	3	6
8	9	7	3	6	1	2	5	4
1	3	6	5	4	2	7	9	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/23

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I LOVE CRAB Solution: 4 letters

E	S	I	A	N	N	O	Y	A	M	W	A	T	E	R
F	N	O	M	E	L	I	N	G	U	I	N	E	E	E
R	A	I	S	A	V	O	R	Y	R	R	U	C	R	S
O	C	N	R	E	P	P	E	P	G	W	I	O	D	T
Z	H	L	C	A	K	E	K	I	A	P	H	A	O	A
E	O	D	A	Y	M	I	L	V	E	S	N	S	O	U
N	S	U	E	W	O	L	E	E	E	S	A	T	F	R
N	O	N	D	C	S	S	L	C	A	I	S	A	A	A
I	D	G	A	S	A	O	I	U	L	G	A	R	E	N
E	A	E	L	T	R	P	T	M	E	N	U	T	S	T
T	C	N	A	E	S	E	O	L	C	B	C	A	M	I
O	O	E	S	W	S	A	N	D	A	R	E	R	A	M
R	V	S	H	R	I	M	P	I	H	S	A	A	L	R
P	A	S	E	U	Q	S	I	B	A	S	A	W	C	E
C	H	O	W	D	E	R	R	E	T	S	B	O	L	H

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Avocado, Beach, Bisque, Cake, Casserole, Chowder, Clams, Claws, Coast, Crawl, Curry, Decapod, Dungeness, Fancy, Frozen, Gills, Hermit, Lemon, Linguine, Lobster, Marine, Mayonnaise, Menu, Miso, Nachos, Pepper, Protein, Recipe, Restaurant, Sail, Salad, Salt, Sand, Sauce, Sauté, Savory, Seafood, Ship, Shore, Shrimp, Spice, Stew, Tartar, Wasabi, Water, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Alpine

The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-866-232-2367)

Pacers beat Hawks to clinch quarterfinal berth in In-Season tourney

AP
Indiana Pacers guard Bennedict Mathurin (00) reacts to play against the Atlanta Hawks during the first half of an In-Season Tournament NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, in Atlanta.

ATLANTA (AP)—Tyrese Haliburton had 37 points and 16 assists, Buddy Hield hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer in the final minute and the Indiana Pacers beat the Atlanta Hawks 157-152 on Tuesday night to clinch a spot in the NBA In-Season Tournament quarterfinals.

In the highest-scoring NBA game this season, Hield's jumper from the left wing broke a 152-all tie with 52 seconds left. Dejounte Murray was called for an offensive foul on a 3-point attempt on Atlanta's next possession, then missed a difficult layup following an Indiana turnover with eight seconds remaining.

Hield made a layup at the buzzer.

"It is exciting," Haliburton said of advancing to the quarterfinals. "We are the first team to clinch and we are ready to go. We have a few more games before the quarterfinals, so we want to take care of what is in front of us first, but we want to win the championship, of course. It would be awesome."

The Pacers are 3-0 in East Group A with one game left in group play. The Hawks dropped to 1-2. The quarterfinals will be held Dec. 4-5.

Hield had 24 points and Obi Toppin scored 21 off the bench as the Pacers set an NBA season high for points. Bennedict Mathurin added 19, including a buzzer-beating shot to close the third quarter.

Haliburton leads the league in assists.

"Tyrese, you just run out of accolades," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "Fearless, leader, great competitor—so happy for him."

Trae Young led the Hawks with 38 points and eight assists. Murray scored 28, and Bogdan Bogdanovic had 26 on 10-for-15 shooting.

"Tough game," said Atlanta coach Quin Snyder. "All losses are tough, but I thought we competed."

The Pacers have not reached the NBA playoffs since the 2019-20 season, so having an opportunity to advance in the first year of the in-season tournament has been a focal point for the team.

"This essentially is a playoff environment," Carlisle said. "Atlanta was playing for a lot, too. The in-season tournament is getting a lot of buzz. ... This is a real thing. Hats off to the people in New York for coming up with something that, at least to this point, is strong."

Both teams entered ranked in the top five in points per game and the bottom five in points allowed per game, setting up a high-scoring affair. The first half did not disappoint, as the Hawks set a franchise record with 86 points and led 86-73 at the break.

"We were not giving nearly enough resistance defensively (in the first half)," Carlisle said. "We challenged ourselves to pick it up and be defiant with our attitude and give ourselves a chance."

Atlanta led by 20 in the second quarter but the Pacers came all the way back and tied it at 107 when Haliburton hit a 3 with just under four minutes remaining in the third. Haliburton scored 26 points in the period, and Indiana led 119-114 entering the fourth.

The Pacers shot 60.6% from the floor and 48.9% from 3-point range, while the Hawks shot 59.4% overall and 48.4% from deep.

"This is a classic regular-season game," Carlisle said. "It had to be really fun to watch for fans."

The Pacers shook up their starting lineup, inserting Hield and Aaron Nesmith in place of Toppin and Mathurin.

LAKERS 131, JAZZ 99

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James scored his 39,000th point on the way to 17 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers completed an unbeaten run through group play in the NBA In-Season Tournament with 131-99 a victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, who are likely to host a quarterfinal game early next month to begin the knockout stages of the league's first in-season tournament.

The 38-year-old James became the first player in league history to top 39,000 points.

D'Angelo Russell added 20 points and eight assists for the Lakers, who went up by 30 in the third quarter and got their two superstars out of the game for good before the fourth began.

John Collins scored 15 points and Omer Yurtseven had a season-high 18 for the Jazz, who have lost seven of their last nine games.

CAVALIERS 122, 76ERS 119, OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Darius Garland scored 32 points and Jarrett Allen added 26 as short-handed Cleveland beat Philadelphia in overtime in the NBA In-Season Tournament.

The Cavaliers remained alive for the Eastern Conference's wild-card berth despite playing without three rotation pieces in Donovan Mitchell, Caris LeVert and Isaac Okoro due to injury.

Cleveland had six players in double figures. The Cavs dominated the paint and the glass, outrebounding the Sixers 61-53 and holding a 68-52 edge in points in the paint.

Joel Embiid scored 32 points and Tyrese Maxey added 30 for the Sixers, who were eliminated from tournament contention.

MAGIC 126, RAPTORS 107

ORLANDO Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 25 points, Jalen Suggs added 18 and Orlando won its fourth straight, beating Toronto in an NBA In-Season Tournament game.

Cole Anthony came off the bench with 15 points and 10 assists in the Magic's second win in three tournament games.

Dennis Schroder led Toronto with 24 points while Pascal Siakam had 16 points and eight assists for the Raptors, who shot 50.7% and made 14 of 28 3-point shots, but committed 23 turnovers.

Toronto center Jakob Poeltl, who came into the game second in the league in field-goal percentage (.699), had 10 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out.

SUNS 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 107

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 31 points, passing Elvin Hayes for 11th place all time, and Phoenix defeated Portland in an In-Season Tournament game.

Durant, playing in his 1,000th NBA game, needed 14 points to pass Hayes, who had 27,313 in his career. He achieved that in the first quarter on 6 of 6 shooting, including a 3-pointer and a free throw.

Devin Booker scored 28 for the Suns, who won their fourth in a row overall and are 2-1 in West Group A in the tournament.

Deandre Ayton scored 12 points in the first quarter and finished with 18 points and a team-high eight rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who lost their eighth in a row.

NBA In-Season Tournament doing what it intended

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

There was no shortage of reasons why the NBA In-Season Tournament was put together. And the benefits are already clear: ratings are up, people are talking about games before Christmas and some players say there's an extra energy in those contests.

That means it's working. And given that knockout-round spots are at stake starting this week, it's reasonable to think the interest will only keep growing.

"I was just interested to see how it would happen, how it would work," Sacramento guard De'Aaron Fox said last week after his team moved to 2-0 in tourney play. "I'm not one of those guys who are like, 'I think it's dumb,' because I don't. I think it could be interesting for this league."

Entering Tuesday, 37 of the 60 games in the group stage of the inaugural tournament have been played. (Another five will be played Tuesday.) Ratings are up; the games being shown on ESPN have gotten 55% more viewers than the ones in comparable windows got last year. It's not exactly must-see-TV yet—those tournament games shown nationally are drawing about 1.7 million viewers—but better numbers are better numbers, which is the point.

Tell people that a game means more, and they'll be more inclined to watch. It's a certainty that some of the 10 games on Friday will have implications on who advances to the quarterfinals, and the same rings true for the final eight group-stage games that'll be played on Nov. 28.

"Some of the courts look a little funky," Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James said as the tournament was getting underway and players were getting used to it all—including the different paint schemes on the tourney-game floors, which has drawn criticism from players like Boston's Jaylen Brown and others over safety concerns. Slipping has been a factor in some games.

"But I think it's great, in the sense for the league to spice things up," James added. "I did see some of the quotes from some of the players that some of the games felt like a playoff atmosphere, that type intensity. So, that's great."

A reminder on how this all works—six group winners make the quarterfinals and two wild-card teams will reach that round as well. Those will be the two best second-place finishers, which probably means teams with 3-1 records and strong point differentials.

The quarterfinals are Dec. 4 and Dec. 5. The Final Four in Las Vegas has semifinals on Dec. 7 and the championship game— with $500,000 per player at stake, along with the NBA Cup—is Dec. 9.

Grizzlies' injury list grows longer with Jake LaRavia out with injured left eye

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis forward Jake LaRavia will have a procedure to repair a corneal abrasion of his left eye that will keep him out at least two to three weeks.

The Grizzlies said Tuesday night that LaRavia will be re-evaluated then and is expected to make a full recovery.

The 19th pick overall of the 2022 draft out of Wake Forest, LaRavia has played five games for the Grizzlies this season, the last in a loss at Utah on Nov. 1. LaRavia was assigned to Memphis' G League team, the Hustle, on Monday and was recalled Tuesday.

This is the third injury update from the Grizzlies in five days starting Nov. 17 with guard Marcus Smart missing three to five weeks with a sprained left foot. The 2022 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, acquired via a trade this offseason, played all of eight minutes before he hurt his foot in a Nov. 14 loss in Los Angeles to the Lakers.

On Monday, Memphis announced Luke Kennard will miss a minimum of two weeks recovering from a bone bruise in his left knee with forward Xavier Tillman Sr. now is considered week to week recovering from his own injured left knee.

Memphis already is without two-time All-Star guard Ja Morant suspended for the first 25 games this season, and center Steven Adams was ruled out before the season started due to needing surgery for a knee first hurt last January. Brandon Clarke is busy recovering from a left Achilles tendon torn last March.

The Grizzlies (3-10) visit Houston on Wednesday and went into Tuesday night's games tied with Portland seven games back of the 10th spot in the Western Conference.

Jets' Rodgers still aiming to return to practice around 40th birthday next month

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers hopes to celebrate his 40th birthday by returning to practice.

The New York Jets quarterback continues to recover from a torn left Achilles tendon suffered four snaps into his debut with the team on Sept. 11. But Rodgers confirmed Tuesday during his weekly appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show" he has his sights set on getting back on the field in two weeks.

"Obviously, we're way ahead of common protocol," Rodgers said.

The four-time NFL MVP turns 40 on Dec. 2, which Fox Sports reported over the weekend is a target date for Rodgers.

"I've said that I'd love to be trending toward practicing by my birthday," Rodgers confirmed.

The Jets play a home game against Atlanta on Dec. 3, so it's more likely Rodgers would return three days later.

AP

Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots a 3-point basket as Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) defends during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

That is, if he's cleared to do so by doctors. Since Rodgers is on injured reserve, the Jets would have 21 days from his first practice to activate him.

Rodgers, who acknowledged he feels "personal guilt" for getting injured, has also said the Jets (4-6) remaining in playoff contention is a condition of his return this season. New York benched Zach Wilson, who'll be replaced by Tim Boyle as the starting quarterback Friday against Miami.

"We need a spark and, obviously, this was the decision that was made," Rodgers said. "I feel for Zach. I love Zach. Zach's such a great kid and I think he still has a bright future in the league.

"This has been a tough go for all of us. A lot of times in these situations, there are certain guys that are the scapegoat. I think there's enough blame to go around at a number of different positions."

Without Rodgers, the Jets have struggled mightily on offense, ranking among the NFL's worst in several categories.

Meanwhile, Rodgers — who reportedly had a "speed bridge" procedure on his Achilles tendon to expedite his recovery — has been working toward trying to make what would be an unprecedented fast return.

He said despite the Jets' struggles, he continues to "push it as hard as we can" each day in his rehabilitation. Rodgers is working on strengthening his left heel and calf, in particular. That includes jogging on an anti-gravity treadmill, a video of which he sent to the Jets to show how far he has come physically.

"The jogging, I think has exponentially improved the strength, and then it has kind of sped up," Rodgers said of his rehabilitation. "Things have progressed pretty nicely these last few weeks."

NFL teams should take stock of Jones finally Jimmy Johnson into Cowboys ring of fame

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

With Jerry Jones finally letting Jimmy Johnson into the Dallas Cowboys ring of honor next month, it's time to take stock of any remaining glaring omissions by NFL teams that give esteemed organization figures their flowers by naming them to their hall of fame, ring of honor or other circle of celebration.

Men like Larry Fitzgerald, Tony Gonzalez, Bernie Kosar and Demaryius Thomas.

Teams all have their own protocols, processes, criteria and even waiting periods for these honors. Some of the exclusions aren't necessarily oversights or miscalculations and many may follow in Johnson's footsteps soon enough.

Jones announced Sunday that Johnson will go into the Cowboys ring of honor on Dec. 30 when the Cowboys host the Detroit Lions.

Johnson led the Cowboys to back-to-back Super Bowls in the 1992 and 1993 seasons during his five-year tenure in Dallas, but the relationship between the two men who played football together at Arkansas in the 1960s deteriorated with a bitter feud leading to a separation following that second Super Bowl win.

"I'm appreciative of the ring of honor, but more appreciative of him bringing me to the Cowboys in '89," Johnson said at a news conference with Jones.

Three teams — the Bears, Rams and Raiders — don't honor their revered stars in this way at all. So, sorry Brian Urlacher. Apologies, Jack Youngblood and condolences, Gene Upshaw.

AP

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones talks with former coach Jimmy Johnson before an NFL football game between the Carolina Panthers and the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C.

Seven franchises have no waiting list of notable exclusions: the Texans, Vikings, Chargers, Patriots, Giants, Steelers and 49ers.

The rest with major omissions:

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Ring of Honor: WR Larry Fitzgerald. The 11-time Pro Bowler scored 121 touchdowns over his 17-year career, all with the Cardinals. He retired in 2020.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Ring of Honor: TE Tony Gonzalez. Although he spent his first 12 years in Kansas City, he cemented his Canton credentials with 35 TDs in five seasons in Atlanta.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Ring of Honor: CB Chris McAlister. A 2003 first-team All-Pro and three-time Pro Bowler, McAlister was a key member of the team's first Super Bowl winner.

BUFFALO BILLS

Wall of Fame: DB Butch Byrd. He collected 40 interceptions between 1964-70 for Buffalo before finishing his career in Denver.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Hall of Honor: QB Cam Newton. The first overall pick in the 2011 draft led the Panthers to Super Bowl 50 where Von Miller thwarted his title hopes.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Ring of Honor: RB Corey Dillon. He's the franchise's all-time leading rusher with six 1,000-yard seasons and 82 touchdowns between 1997-2003.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Ring of Honor: QB Bernie Kosar spent nine seasons in Cleveland and led the Browns to three AFC championship games in the 1980s.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Ring of Honor: Now that Johnson is in, Jones should add DE Ed "Too Tall" Jones, who was a three-time Pro Bowler and 1982 first-team All-Pro.

DENVER BRONCOS

Broncos Ring of Fame: WR Demaryius Thomas, who died at age 33 in 2021, had the most famous catch in franchise history to beat the Steelers in the '11 playoffs.

DETROIT LIONS

Pride of the Lions: WR Calvin Johnson. A three-time first-team All-Pro, Johnson earned six Pro Bowl berths in nine seasons in Detroit.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Hall of Fame: LB Brian Noble. His career came just before Green Bay's return to glory in the 1990s but he was a tackling machine between 1985-92.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Ring of Honor: DB Bob Sanders. He played in just 50 games during his seven injury-filled years in Indy, but he was the NFL's 2007 Defensive Player of the Year.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Pride of the Jaguars: HC Tom Coughlin. The first coach in franchise history, Coughlin led the Jags to the AFC championship game in 1996 and '99.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Chiefs Hall of Fame: Former GM Carl Peterson. The Chiefs went to the playoffs nine times in his 1989-2008 tenure after making it once in previous 20 years.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Honor Roll: CB Sam Madison. He teamed with Patrick Surtain to form one of the league's best cornerback tandems around the turn of the century.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Hall of Fame: With no glaring omissions, we'll leave this space open to add HC Bill Belichick should his days in New England be as numbered as so many speculate.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Ring of Honor: QB Drew Brees. He led the Saints to their only title with a win over Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl 44.

NEW YORK JETS

Ring of Honor: OT Marvin Powell. He spent the first nine seasons of his 11-year career with the Jets, making first-team All-Pro three times and five Pro Bowls.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Hall of Fame: CB Herm Edwards. He totaled 33 interceptions in nine seasons with the Eagles and scored the touchdown in "The Miracle at the Meadowlands."

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Ring of Honor: QB Russell Wilson. Too soon? OK, the divorce was messy but netted the ingredients for a franchise makeover. Plus, Super Bowl 48, right?

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Ring of Honor: QB Tom Brady. He only spent three seasons in Tampa. But what a time it was: 32-18 and a Super Bowl 55 title at Raymond James Stadium, no less.

TENNESSEE TITANS

Ring of Honor: LB Keith Bulluck. He had 35 interceptions and six 100-tackle seasons in a decade with the Titans and he appeared in Super Bowl 34 as a rookie.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

Ring of Fame: LT Jim Lachey. Washington's left tackle from 1988-95, Lachey was a three-time first-team All-Pro and started in team's Super Bowl 26 win over Buffalo.

AK presents 2nd Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon

» Half marathon and 5K fun Run on tap

Atkins Kroll Saipan proudly declares its sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon, set to unfold on Dec. 9, 2023.

In its role as the presenting sponsor, AK Saipan is lending support to both a half marathon and a 5K Fun Run, promising a vibrant celebration of athleticism and community spirit.

The Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon unfolds across a picturesque 13.1-mile course, starting from Micro Beach Road near the entrance of the Hyatt Regency Club Elan and the turnaround point will be at the softball field in Marpi, just past the entrance to Wing Beach.

In tandem with the half marathon, the event will showcase a special 5K Fun Run, inspired by last year's celebration of AK's 55th anniversary of serving the people of the CNMI.

The Atkins Kroll 5K Fun Walk, Jog, and Run will traverse a point-to-point course from the Hyatt Regency Club Elan entrance, with the turnaround point set at the U.S. Army Reserve Center. Finisher medals, limited to the first 300 finishers, will be awarded at the finish line.

Established in August 2021, Run Saipan, a nonprofit running organization, has tirelessly worked to establish the Saipan Half Marathon as an annual sports tourism spectacle. The goal is to draw runners and visitors from Asia, Micronesia, and beyond, solidifying Saipan's status as a premier destination for athletic excellence.

LEIGH GASES

Javin Okawa celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the 2022 Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon that ended at Banzai Cliff.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. is enthusiastic about partnering with AK Saipan, emphasizing their shared objective to continue a flagship running event in the CNMI.

Alex Yap, president of AK Saipan, affirmed the commitment to infuse the annual event with the quality of their brands, with a special emphasis on the significance of the 5K Fun Run. Yap warmly invited customers from the region to actively participate and support an event designed to foster the growth of the sport and attract visitors to the islands.

Packet pick-up for the Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon and 5K Fun Run is slated for Dec. 6 to 8, 2023, at the Atkins Kroll Toyota showroom, from 3pm to 6pm.

Race day start will commence at 5am for the Half Marathon and 6:30am for the 5K Fun Run. Registration includes a lunch banquet at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in the Ataari outdoor garden from 12pm to 2pm.

Half Marathon participants will also receive a finisher's T-shirt and finishing medals. The first 300 finishers of the 5K Fun Run will receive a T-shirt. Champion medals will be awarded to the Top 3 male and female in each Half Marathon race division, and the top male and female finisher in the 5K Fun Run.

Registration is currently open through Race Roster, the event's registration site, listed under "Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon." Regular registration fees are $50 for the Half Marathon and $35 for the 5K Fun Run until Dec. 6, with a $5 late registration fee added for race registrations on Dec. 7 and 8.

Both races are officially sanctioned by Northern Marianas Athletics, a proud member of World Athletics, the regulatory body of track and field. For inquiries about the races, reach out to Ron Snyder at runsaipan@gmail.com.

For more information, contact ernie.galito@akguam.com. ***(PR)***

NMI'S

From page 20

senko teamed up with Kean Pajarillaga, Taiyo Akimaru, and Juhn Tenorio in winning a bronze medal in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay event. Last Monday night, Aleksenko got his first medal when he finished third in the men's 100m butterfly.

Meanwhile, three others NMI swimmers raced in the finals of their respective events on Day 3 of the swimming competition.

Pajarillaga and Tenorio were finalists in the men's 200m backstroke after submitting 2:16.40 and 2:19.91, respectively in the prelims. Pajarillaga's time is his new personal best, eclipsing his 2:16.69. In the women's 200m backstroke, Shoko Litulumar advanced to the finals after recording 2:43.93.

Santos leads NMI's bid in golf

The opening round of the golf competitions kicked off yesterday at the Honiara Golf Club with Franco Santos posting the best scores for NMI golfers.

Santos shot a 5-over 77 for a share of sixth place in with Papua New Guinea's Gideon Tikili and Fiji's Asish Chand. New Caledonia's Guillaume Castagne leads the pack with an impressive 5-under 67. Santos and his fellow NMI golfers—Ben Jones, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, and Joe Sasamoto—teed off Wednesday morning, while the team's lone female entry, Zhimin Jin, played the opening round in the afternoon and her scores were unavailable at press time.

Sasamoto hit a 9-over 81, Jones tallied a 10-over 82, and Camacho recorded a 14-over 86. In the team event, the NMI totaled 38-over 326 for fifth place out of eight squads. New Caledonia leads the team category with its 3-over 291.

Golfers will play four rounds to determine the medalists in the individual and team events.

3 win opener in tennis

Moris Villanueva, Colin Ramsey, and June Yu won their opening matches in the men's singles event yesterday.

Villanueva swept Nauru's Addi Dallas, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the second round where he will face the No. 12 seed Samoa's Marvin Soonalole. Colin Ramsey also needed only two sets to down Tonga's Otufangavalu Noa, 6-4, 6-1, and set up and Round 2 tiff against No. 3 seed Camden Camacho. June Yu is the third NMI player to reach the second round following a 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Tuvalu's Felo Feoto. Yu will be up against No. 11 seed Leon Soonalole of Samoa.

The NMI missed a sweep in the opener in the men's singles when Nason Wessel lost a tough three-setter to Vanuatu's Jeane Pierre Andrew, 2-6, 6-4, 3-6.

In other events, two weightlifters will compete today at the Maranatha Hall. Angel San Nicolas will be competing in the 102kg class at 9:00 (Saipan time), while Antonette Labausa's lifts in the women's 81kg will start at 11:30am.

After last Wednesday's competitions, Team Marianas kept its Top 10 spot in the medal standings with its 2 golds, 1 silver, and 4 bronzes. New Caledonia is still on top with an 18-15-21 gold-silver-bronze tally. Team Marianas' participation in this year's Pacific Games is supported by the Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's of Guam & Saipan. ***(PR)***

ISAIAH

From page 20

little due to being tired from his earlier race. However, he was still confident they would place because he knew their anchor, Tenorio, would do his best and swim as fast and as hard as he could.

On how they felt when they realized they beat the NMI record, he said, "at first, I thought it will be a close time, but after, I was really surprised of the big gap between the national record and the time we got."

Tenorio, who came for the Pacific Games from Japan on Nov. 16, said on how the competition was, "To be honest, we didn't think we were going to place, so we were just trying to get fourth. And then halfway through in maybe Kean's leg, a bronze kind of became a possibility. So, from there, we just thought to keep focused and we did it."

Coach Hiroyuki Kimura was more than surprised at their podium finish and said, "I was beyond moved."

"For CNMI swimmers, 200m is a hard distance because of no training at a swimming pool. Swimmers need training at 25m or 50m swimming pool and swim long distance every practice for 200m race. Therefore, I didn't [have] any expectation for 4x200m free relay—not only me but also swimmers themselves were so surprised with this result," said Kimura.

Coach Richard Sikkel, for his part, said that the race was "super exciting… I am pretty sure this is the first relay medal for swimming in the Pacific Games. The boys swam a great race. They paced themselves well over the 200m and came out with a solid third place finish. Very happy for them."

Before that, in the preliminaries in the morning, Maria Batallones broke the national record by a mile—which was her own record—in the 50m breaststroke, with a time of 35.09 seconds. Her old record was 36.96 seconds. In the finals, she finished last—also with the exact same time of 35.09.

She said after her race that she felt good because she beat her record by almost a minute. Batallones holds multiple national records and said that her goal in the games is to update all her records.

In other finals events, Akimura finished last in the men's 200m individual medley with a time of 2:25.58.

Tenorio finished sixth in the 50m backstroke with a time of 27.61; and the women's 4x200m freestyle relay team of Batallones, Shoko Litulumar, Julia Jinang, and Fraces Raho finished last with a time of 10:08.41.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's bronze medal-winning men's 4x200m relay team, from left, Kean Pajarillaga, Juhn Tenorio, Taiyo Akimaru, and Isaiah Aleksenko pose with their bronze medals after Day 2 of swimming competition at the Aquatics Centers in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

TENNIS

From page 20

ever in danger during the match. It was just kind of more of a battle against myself." As for their tough loss in the team's matches against Tahiti, he said they learned a lot from it. With their expectations for the next round, he said, "We're going to have to wait and see. We really just have to take it one step at a time and just see how everything goes. I just want to focus on myself and not worry about things that I can't control."

On Monday, they were out of contention in the team's event after losing to top-ranked Tahiti. Villanueva lost to Heimanarii Lai San, 0-4, 3-5; Ramsey fell to Antoine Voisin, 1-4, 1-4. They did not play doubles matches as Tahiti already won the team's match against NMI.

In Round 2, Villanueva will go up against No. 12 Marvin Soonalole of Samoa; Ramsey is facing No. 3 Camden Camacho of Guam; and Yu is challenging Tonga's Teofulau Huni.

Golf tees off

For the start of golf competitions, the CNMI men's team finished fifth overall out of 10 teams after Round 1 yesterday morning at the Honiara Golf Course.

Franco Santos led the team with a 5-over 77; Joseph Sasamoto is second with 9-over 81; Benjamin Jones Jr. is third at 10-over 82; then Joe "Kamikazee" Camacho at 86, for a total score of 240.

Santos is ranked No. 12, while Sasamoto is No. 21 and Jones is No. 24.

Santos said the first day jitters are finally coming out and he knew he could've done better. "My game started out slow and then finished strong. The golf course is tough because the conditions are not great. If I shoot under par in the next three rounds, there's possibly a chance for a medal," he said.

His best hole was No. 13 because of a good drive down the right center of the fairway, with 70 yards for his second shot. He then put it a foot away from the hole for a birdie.

His worst hole was No. 7 and No. 16, which is the same hole as a par three. He missed the greens both times. He said, "the winds change directions every hour so it's not the same shot even though it's the same hole. I made a bogey both times."

Before teeing off, team manager Marco Peter reminded them to remain calm and keep their heart rates down. He followed each player on the course and watched their game by the shade of the trees in the rough. He and the team mentioned that the course is not what their used to back home and that it's a bit worse for wear, but they'll make do with what they can.

Peter said after the men's round, "Starting in the sixth, Santos salvaged a birdie on the 163-yard par 3 on the ninth hole to shoot an even 36 in the front nine. He shot a 41 in the back for a total of 77. Sasamoto scrambled around the tall grass and settled for an 81. Jones debuted his skills in his first Pacific Games golf event with an 82, followed by Joe Camacho's 86."

"The team is sitting currently at the fifth spot overall on team points. It was a hot humid day despite a 7:30am start time. Day 1 is in the books, so it is time to stay focused and be patient these next three days."

As for Zhimin Jin who is the lone female golfer for Team NMI, she had a 7-over 79.

She said after her round that finished late afternoon after a slight delay, "I did my best but I could've done better. The course was just alright, competition was okay too. I enjoyed my time playing with golfers from other countries."

Peter said of Jin's performance, "Zhimin game overall was steady and consistent with every shot. The only hiccup was on hole No. 3 when she shot a 3-over. The wind directions were unstable. She managed to finish with a score of 79."

2023 Honiara, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI women's relay swim team, from left to right, Maria Batallones, Shoko Litulumar, Frances Raho, and Julia Jinang pose for a photo by the pool before their training session.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's bronze-medal winning men's 4x200m relay team, from left, Juhn Tenorio, Kean Pajarillaga, Taiyo Akimaru, and Isaiah Aleksenko pose with their bronze medals after Day 2 of swimming competitions.

LEIGH GASES

Taiyo Akimaru readies for his 200m individual medley Tuesday evening at the Aquatic Center.

LEIGH GASES

Maria Batallones broke her 50m breaststroke record with a time of 35.09 seconds Tuesday night at the Aquatic Center.

LEIGH GASES

Player/coach Colin Ramsey, left, talks to Moris Villanueva during his match against Tahiti last Monday.

LEIGH GASES

Franco Santos leads the NMI men's golf team with a 5-over-77 after Round 1 of golf at the Honiara Golf Course yesterday morning.

LEIGH GASES

Joe Sasamoto swings on hole No. 6 in the first round of golf competition yesterday morning at the Honiara Golf Course.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI's June Yu won his individual match yesterday against Tuvalu's Feto Feoto and advanced to the next round.

Pacers beat Hawks to clinch quarterfinal berth in In-Season tourney.

PAGE 16

Saipan Tribune
Sports

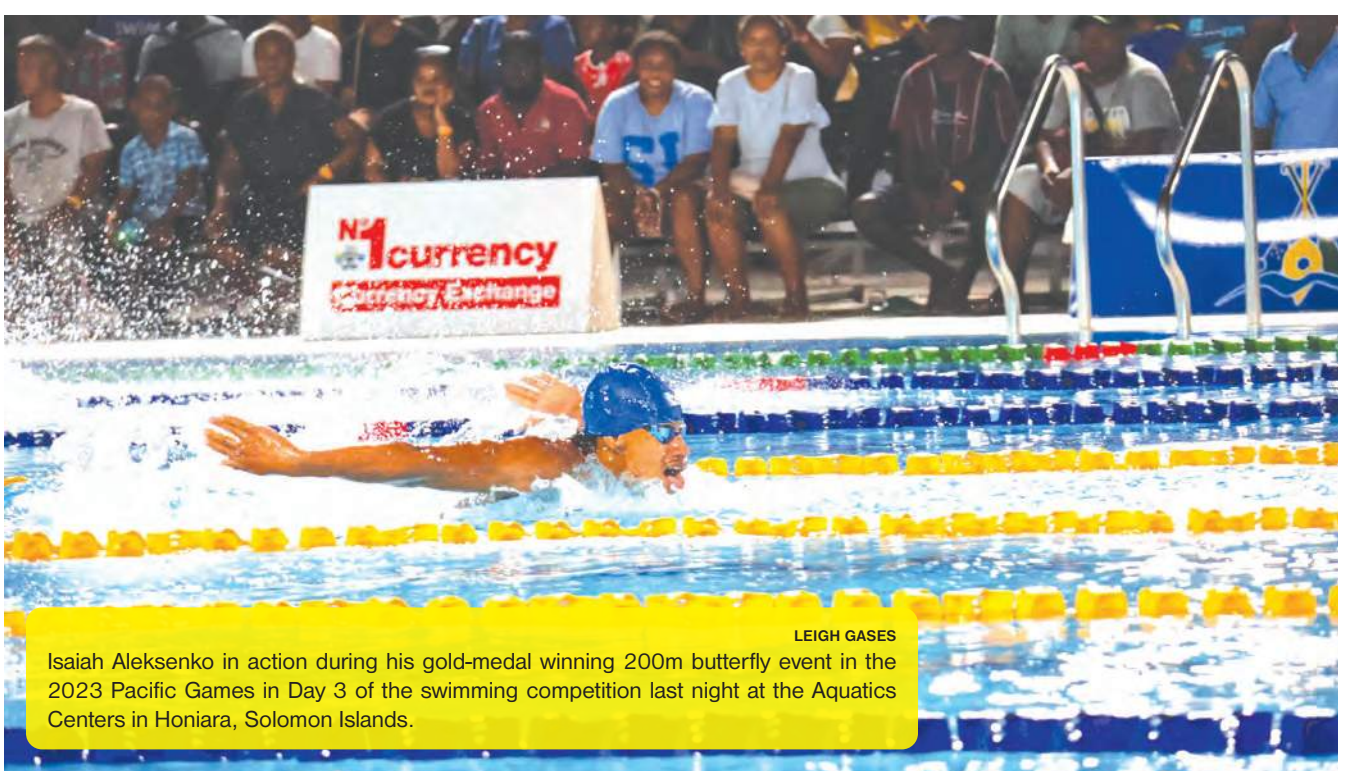
AK presents 2nd Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon.

PAGE 18

Isaiah golden in 200m butterfly

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Isaiah Aleksenko bagged the CNMI's second gold medal in the 2023 Pacific Games after winning the 200m butterfly last night at the Aquatics Center.



LEIGH GASES
Isaiah Aleksenko in action during his gold-medal winning 200m butterfly event in the 2023 Pacific Games in Day 3 of the swimming competition last night at the Aquatics Centers in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

» Men's 4x200m relay team wisn bronze

The 17-year-old Marianas High School student finished the four-tripper around the pool in a blistering time of 2:05.86—also a new CNMI national record—to humble Tahiti's Nael Roux, with a time of 2:09.52, and New Caledonia's Baptiste Savignac with a time of 2:11.80.

Coaches and teammates cheered him on during his race and the media also mobbed him for interviews after.

With the 200m butterfly gold, the CNMI now has seven total medals—two gold, a silver, and four bronze.

Aleksenko's 200m butterfly time in Honiara broke the old standard of 2:25.48 made in 1988 by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and Pan American Games USA swimmer Jonathan Sakovich.

The evening before, the Saipan Community School alumnus spearheaded the men's 4x200m freestyle relay team to a bronze-medal finish also at the Aquatic Center.

Not only did they bag a podium finish against strong teams—this is the first team medal for CNMI in the Pacific Games ever—and they also beat the CNMI national record with their time of 8:16.38. The previous record of 8:35.74 was made in Rome in 2009 by Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Cooper Graf, and Shin Kimura.

Gold went to a stacked New Caledonia team that clocked in under eight minutes at 7:38.62; and silver went to Tahiti with a time of 8:02.27.

Aleksenko gave his team a huge lead as he came in only second to New Caledonia. Kean Pajarillaga tried to keep the second-place pace as Tahiti chased him to no avail and still kept the second-place lead for NMI. Taiyo Akimura, who swam earlier in the 200m individual medley, tried to keep the lead but Tahiti finally caught up as NMI went down to third place.

Finally, anchor Juhn Tenorio swam his hardest to keep the third-place finish despite his 50m backstroke swim earlier in the evening.

Aleksenko said his swim in the first leg was good despite it being "very hot." He said, "It was hard but I tried to make a good lead so the second swimmer can also have a good lead." He added that before their race, they already had a goal to break the record, but was surprised to place in the Top 3.

For Pajarillaga who swam the second leg, he said, "I just tried to keep the second-place pace. I was able to keep it for a while and throughout the race I felt pretty good." The strategy, he said, was that the first 100m was to keep a steady pace, but for the last 100m, speed it up.

Akimura, for his part, said he wasn't nervous on his turn to swim. "Isaiah and Kean already made a big lead. I just had to keep second or third because I knew the Tahiti swimmers were picking their pace up, so I just had to keep my pace to not lose the medal position."

In the first 50m, he kept pace with Tahiti, but later, fell back a

See ISAIAH on Page 18

Tennis nets 3 wins; golf team 5th after first round

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—After a tough loss in the tennis team matches on Monday, the NMI's Moris Villanueva, player/coach Colin Ramsey, and junior netter June Yu each recorded a win each yesterday, in the start of tennis individual matches of the 2023 Pacific Games.

Villanueva seized the day first in the morning and won against Nauru's Addi Dallas after two strong sets, 6-2, 6-2.

In the heat of the midday sun, Yu also overpowered his competition and beat Tuvalu's Felo Feoto, 6-1, 6-4, while Ramsey was hot as the weather and smoked Tonga's Otufangavalu Noa and won, 6-4, 6-1.

Nason Wessel put up a great fight against Vanuatu's Jean Pierre Andre, but lost after a tie-breaking third set, 2-6, 6-4, 3-6.

Ramsey said of their first day of individual matches, "Nason lost in a close three-set match. He has a chance to join a consolation singles draw to play some more matches though. The rest of us are in the next round! Good day for us today."

LEIGH GASES
The CNMI men's national golf team, from left to right, Franco Santos, Ben Jones Jr., Marco Peter, Joe Sasamoto, and Joe "Kamikazee" Camacho pose for a photo before the first round of the golf competition at the Honiara Golf Course yesterday morning.

As for Villanueva, who pushed through in his match despite having tweaked his right elbow after a serve in their practice session. "I really wanted to focus on what I wanted to do, which is, you know, have some goals about how I was going win today and I felt pretty alright. I mean, I didn't play the way I wanted to play, but I still pulled through with a win and I'm just happy about that."

He said his opponent "wasn't very good, but I could tell that he really put his best foot forward and I have a lot of respect for that. It didn't feel as if I was

See TENNIS on Page 18

NMI's Honiara haul now at 7 medals

Swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko reigned supreme in the men's 200m butterfly event in the 2023 Pacific Games Wednesday night in Honiara, Solomon Islands to give Team Marianas' its second gold and seventh medal overall.

Aleksenko smoked six other competitors in the four-lap swim both in the preliminaries Wednesday morning and in the finals last night to live up to expectations. The 17-year-old was the fastest in the preliminary race after clocking in at 2:08.96, about five seconds ahead of New Caledonia's Baptiste Savignac. Aleksenko returned to the pool for the finale and swam even faster with a time of 2:05.86 to clinch the gold medal. The NMI swimmer touched the wall nearly four seconds ahead of Tahiti's Nale Roux (2:09.52). Savignac fell to third in the finals to settle for bronze with his time of 2:11.80.

The gold in the 200m butterfly is Aleksenko's second individual and third overall. Last Tuesday night, Alek-

See NMI'S on Page 18

2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS
(As of November 22, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
New Caledonia	18	15	21	54
Australia	13	11	3	27
Samoa	9	1	2	12
Tahiti	5	14	14	33
Solomon Islands	5	9	7	21
Marshall Islands	5	3	0	8
Papua New Guinea	4	4	7	15
Guam	4	0	2	6
Kiribati	3	0	4	7
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	4	7
Cook Islands	2	0	1	3
FSM	2	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	2	4	7
Fiji	0	4	2	6
Nauru	0	3	4	7
Tuvalu	0	3	0	3
Vanuatu	0	1	2	3
American Samoa	0	1	0	1
Palau	0	0	3	3
Tonga	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0

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